

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1995
COLUMBIA
Briton faces judgement in child sex case
BRUSSELS (AFP) — A British man charged with sexual abuse of a child is facing judgement in Belgium on Wednesday. The man, 34, is accused of sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl in 1991. He is being held in a Belgian prison. The case is being handled by the Brussels District Court. The man's name is not being disclosed.

Settlers start new building in Hebron

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (R) — Jewish settlers have begun erecting a new building in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron in an effort to strengthen their small enclave there, Palestinians said on Wednesday. The Israeli army lifted a daytime curfew imposed on the city after security forces ambushed and killed three Palestinians on Sunday. An army spokesman said a dusk-to-dawn curfew will remain in effect in Hebron. Settlers laid the cornerstone on Tuesday for a new building which they said would add five families to the city's 400 Jewish settlers. Thousands of Israelis on Passover holiday visited the town on Tuesday as Hebron's 110,000 Palestinians were confined to their homes under the military curfew. Hebron city officials said the settlers did not apply for a building permit and therefore the construction was being carried out illegally. A spokesman for the army's civil administration occupation arm said he was checking who authorised the building.

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Syria rejects indefinite NPT extension

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Syria announced Wednesday it would reject an indefinite extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless Israel also signed it. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa's statement at the international NPT renewal conference here was a direct challenge to Israel, which is believed to have nuclear weapons. "Syria cannot agree to the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel accedes to the treaty and subjects its nuclear installation to international inspections," he said. Earlier Wednesday U.S. Vice President Al Gore urged NPT signatories to take their "one-time" option to extend it indefinitely and unconditionally. "The United States believes that it is vital that we take advantage of this non-time option to extend the treaty indefinitely — without conditions," Mr. Gore said. Syria is among the 178 signatories of the 25-year treaty, which took effect in 1970. Only a few countries do not belong. In addition to Israel, India and Pakistan are considered nuclear powers.

Sinai to serve Palestinian pilgrims

CAIRO (AFP) — The airport of Egypt's Sinai town of Al Arish will be used for international flights for the first time to transport Palestinian pilgrims to Mecca, the airport director, Salah Abdul Hamid, said Wednesday. "For the first time 28 round-trip flights are to leave Thursday for Palestinians coming from the Gaza Strip and West Bank to conduct the annual pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia," Mr. Abdul Naim told AFP. "We have renovated the runways, enlarged the waiting facilities for passengers and modernised the airport equipment for the occasion," he added. The airport of Al Arish, 380 kilometres northwest of Cairo, has been used solely for domestic flights since it was reopened in 1982. Only Yasser Arafat has used it to fly abroad, particularly to Tunisia, since moving to the autonomous Gaza Strip in July 1994, Mr. Abdul Naim added.

Tunisian official visits Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A senior Tunisian official visited Jerusalem Wednesday and met with an adviser of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Said Ben Mustafa, Tunisia's secretary of state for North African affairs, arrived in the West Bank Tuesday from Jordan and toured the town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Ben Mustafa met Wednesday in Arab East Jerusalem with Ahmad Tibi, who is an adviser to Mr. Arafat. "We discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between Tunis and the Palestinian Authority," Dr. Tibi said after the meeting.

Israel holds Soviet spy since 1988

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel disclosed on Wednesday it has held a Russian spy imprisoned since he was caught in 1988, Israel Radio said. "The spy was Gregory London, an engineer by profession, who was recruited in the former Soviet Union to serve as a KGB secret agent, and emigrated to Israel 22 years ago equipped with technical equipment," the radio said. It said he spied for the Soviet Union for 15 years. Mr. London was sentenced in 1988 to 13 years for espionage and contact with a foreign agent, it said. Israel's supreme court, which in the past rejected an appeal by Mr. London, allowed publication of the story for the first time on Wednesday, the radio said.

Japan may send experts to Golan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan may dispatch a team of Self-Defence Force personnel to the Israeli-held Golan Heights to assist U.N. peacekeeping activities, news reports said Wednesday. The possibility of sending such a team grew after a fact-finding mission sent to the Middle East by Japan's three ruling parties supported the dispatch of a military contingent to the Golan Heights, the reports said. They could leave as early as October. Kyodo News Service said, while Jiji Press said the team could engage in transportation work. The United Nations has asked Japan to replace Canadian troops now assisting U.N. activity on the Golan Heights.

India ready for talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Wednesday that he was ready for talks with Pakistan "anyplace, anytime" but an upcoming South Asian summit was not the forum for such bilateral discussions. "Let us sit down anyplace, anytime, at any time," Mr. Mukherjee said in a news conference, referring to proposals to reopen talks between India and Pakistan. "Let us start talking and see how we can build confidence," he said.

Crown Prince urges Arab scholars to learn from Gulf crisis, start objective dialogue to chart future HRH, opening Arab Thought Forum meeting in Doha, stresses need for fresh approach



Special to the Jordan Times from Qatar

IN A FRESH bid to reassert Jordan's Arab credentials and explore new avenues of inter-Arab cooperation following the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday joined forces with his Qatari counterpart to launch a long-awaited meeting of influential intellectuals and thinkers grouped under the Arab Thought Forum.

Most members of the Amman-based forum, which has not met since the start of the Gulf crisis and war, came to this Gulf state not only to overcome the differences that arose among them since Aug. 2, 1990 but also to assess the impact of the peace agreements that the Arabs have struck with Israel since then. "When we established the Arab Thought Forum (after the Arab economic summit in Amman) fourteen years ago," Crown Prince Hassan, who is the chairman of the forum, told the group, "we were talking about a decade of development and a joint Arab economic strategy. At the time we thought we were on the threshold of a new stage of joint work. But today we live in an era of uncertainty about and futile search for a new course of action that we could pursue."

(Continued on page 7)

At least 19 killed in Oklahoma blast

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies) — A car bomb ripped a nine-storey hole in a downtown federal office building Wednesday, killing at least 19 people, including 17 children, and injuring at least 200. Other victims were trapped in the wreckage. Cable News Network said 80 were killed.

Parmedice Heatber Taylor said 17 children were dead at the scene. Earlier, officials had said at least two adults were killed.

In Washington Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials said they had not ruled out a possible terrorist attack as the motive behind the deadly car bombing, but they cautioned it was too early to say for sure.

In Oklahoma City, John Magaw, the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), said the blast resulted from the detonation of explosives packed in a vehicle parked in front of the building. Spokesman John Cox

said scores of others were injured in the explosion, which gutted the nine-storey building in central Oklahoma City. The explosion was felt 45 kilometres away and left a portion of Oklahoma City littered with injured people and debris.

Mr. Magaw said about 400 kilograms of explosives caused the blast that occurred as people were on their way to work or had just arrived. He said the size of the bomb was similar to the Feb. 26, 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Six people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in that attack, which authorities said was carried out by a radical group. Asked if Wednesday bombing was a "terrorist" attack, Mr. Magaw said "Anytime you have this kind of explosion, this kind of damage you have to look there first. Clearly that would be the direction of

interest to begin with."

The explosion occurred on the second anniversary of the fiery, fatal ending of the federal siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. That siege began with a raid by ATF agents on Feb. 28, 1993.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said that security precautions around federal buildings nationwide as well as the White House have been taken, as "we would normally take following an incident like this."

President Bill Clinton went ahead with a scheduled meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller scheduled, but was being kept abreast of developments by his advisors, Mr. McCurry said.

People ran down the streets away from the building where more than 500 normally work, streaming past charred cars and streets cluttered with debris

Clinton presses Ciller for pullout from Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton pressed Turkey Wednesday for an early withdrawal from northern Iraq, but Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said she still cannot set a timetable even though "the majority of the job is done."

Turkish forces are trying to wipe out camps used by Kurdish separatists in the invasion that began four weeks ago. The separatist rebels are fighting for autonomy in southern Turkey.

But on the subject of a timetable, Mr. Clinton yielded to Ms. Ciller. "The reason I cannot announce a date is that would not be fair to those people up in the mountains," she said. She said her forces were "searching the caves in the mountains for the guns and ammunition that would have been used to kill the innocent."

Even so, she promised that Turkey's objectives were limited and were forced because northern Iraq had become "a no-man's land" in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"We are there only for a limited time. We have gotten hold of the bases that we wanted to do. The majority of the job is done and over with," she said in the Oval Office session.

She was asked whether she was concerned for her safety, or worried about civil unrest in her country, following the arrests in Turkey earlier Wednesday of suspects accused of plotting to assassinate

Peres sparks row over Golan pullout

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was at the centre of a storm on Wednesday after saying that Israel was negotiating a withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the international border with Syria.

"In our negotiations with Syria, we are talking about withdrawing to the international border," Mr. Peres told Israel Television late Tuesday.

He recalled that former Prime Minister Kevy Eshkol had proposed a similar withdrawal in 1967 when Menachem Begin, who became right-wing premier in 1977, was a minister without portfolio in the "national unity" government.

"But Syria is talking about a return to the lines of June 4, 1967," Mr. Peres said, which would give Damascus control of a narrow band of land by the Sea of Galilee.

"Peres' statement shows the true face of the prime minister which was hidden during the last elections," raged deputy Uzi Landau, head of the parliamentary party of the right-wing opposition Likud Party.

Before the 1992 elections, Yitzhak Rabin who is now premier swore that Israel would never quit the Golan Heights, but has since made veiled references to the possibility of a full withdrawal. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said he would answer Mr. Peres at an emergency meeting of Israel

councillors from the Golan at the main town Katzrin.

Council chief Yehuda Wollman warned Mr. Rabin that Mr. Peres was "trying to drive him into a corner," meaning a position in which he would have to return all the Heights.

Mr. Wollman said that a bill requiring a big majority for a withdrawal from the Golan could soon go before parliament and would be supported by several Labour deputies.

The international border is considered that drawn up when Palestine was under British mandate and Syria under the French after World War I.

It was adopted by the United Nations partition plan in 1947 and in the armistice agreement with Syria on July 20, 1949.

By June 4, 1967, two days before war broke out again, Syria held a small strip of land beyond the border, no wider than three kilometres.

Six days later Israel had seized all the Golan, which was "annexed" de facto in 1981.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Arthur Owens (Armed Forces photo) holds talks with the vice-chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

King meets vice-chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, on Wednesday received in his office at the Army General Headquarters the vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Arthur Owens, who arrived in Amman earlier in the day on a two-day visit to Jordan as part of a regional tour.

King Hussein and Adm. Owens exchanged views on several regional and international issues of concern to Jordan and the U.S.

The meeting was attended by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, and the American charge d'affaires in Amman, Adm. Owens was also received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Sharif Zeid, who is also defence minister, and Adm. Owens reviewed Jordanian-American cooperation, especially in military fields, and discussed issues of common interest to the two countries.

They also discussed the outcome of King Hussein's recent visit to the U.S. and his meeting with President Bill Clinton, members of the American administration and congressmen.

Discussion at the meeting also focused on regional developments and the Middle East peace process. The prime minister stressed the need to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sharif Zeid also underlined Jordan's keenness to continue the process to ensure a better future for the region. The American admiral

voiced his country's support of Jordan in all fields to enable it to achieve the progress it is seeking, especially in defence.

Gen. Mirai also received Adm. Owens and reviewed with him the situation in the region.

They discussed the Jordanian army's role in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Adm. Owens is a naval officer who advanced from ensign to full admiral. He is the highest ranking officer in the U.S. Navy and has been the vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon in Washington since 1994.

He was born in Bismarck in North Dakota on May 8, 1940.

Peace process in peril if Israel does not join NPT — Jordan

NEW YORK (Petra) — The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has not succeeded in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and certain countries like Israel have succeeded in breaching international controls, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said Wednesday.

Delivering Jordan's address to the conference on renewing the NPT, Mr. Kabarti said the world should find suitable controls to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to deter the exporters as well as the importers of such weapons.

"If we consider the situation in the Middle East we find that Israel has maintained its rejection of calls to join the NPT over the past quarter of a century, despite the success of peace efforts that led to peace agreements

between Egypt and Israel, Israel and the Palestinians and Jordan and Israel," he said.

Forcing Israel to sign the NPT and subjecting Israeli nuclear installations to international inspection would prevent any nuclear accidents that result in grave destructive consequences, he said.

Nevertheless, he added, "we should stress the important role which the NPT had played over the past years, especially that the NPT has succeeded in limiting the number of nations that declared their possession of nuclear weapons."

However, the world community has succeeded in putting an end to the nuclear arms between the two superpowers as a result of engendering

formity with the spirit of the peace treaty, Mr. Kabarti said.

Before considering the idea of extending the NPT, he said, "we should examine the original NPT's objectives and compare them with the achievements on the ground with a view to finding impediments in its way."

Nevertheless, he added, "we should stress the important role which the NPT had played over the past years, especially that the NPT has succeeded in limiting the number of nations that declared their possession of nuclear weapons."

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Compromise found in Libyan pilgrimage flights to Mecca

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya agreed Wednesday to transfer pilgrims bound for Mecca to Egyptian planes rather than violate the U.N. air embargo, Egypt's official news agency MENA reported.

It said Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi, in a telephone call with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, decided to keep two Libyan planes which took off with pilgrims earlier the same day at Tobruk airport, 100 kilometres from the Egyptian border.

The pilgrims would wait for Egypt Air planes to take them to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage in keeping with a U.N. special exemption, MENA said.

"The decision was taken by Col. Qadhafi after a telephone conversation with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after a second Libyan plane took off from Benghazi," the agency said.

The second plane landed at Tobruk, joining a first jet which arrived earlier from

Tripoli with 159 passengers, a Libyan diplomat told AFP. He did not specify the number of passengers on the second flight.

MENA added that "during the past two days a number of contacts were made between Mr. Mubarak and Col. Qadhafi to exchange views on the matter."

The head of the national carrier, Fahim Rayan, said the Egypt Air planes would go to Tripoli and Benghazi on Thursday to fly pilgrims directly to the Red Sea city of Jeddah near Mecca.

They will be the first foreign aircraft to land in Libya

since the United Nations slapped an air embargo on the country in April 1992 in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing.

In New York, after the first Libyan plane left Tripoli, the U.N. Sanctions Committee authorised 45 Egypt Air flights between Libya and Saudi Arabia to allow 6,000 Libyans to make the Hajj.

Mr. Rayan said that "UN delegates will inspect the passengers and airplanes in Tripoli and Benghazi airports and confirm their flight paths."

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CURFEW IN HEBRON: An Israeli soldier patrols the Hebron market in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Hundreds of Israelis paraded and prayed in Hebron on Tuesday

while troops kept Palestinians residents under a strict curfew for a third day running (AFP photo)

GCC pledges to fight extremism

MANAMA (Agencies) — The six Arab Gulf states on Tuesday vowed to fight "extremism and terrorism" and appealed for increased public vigilance to foil attempts at sedition in the region.

Interior ministers from the six states also pledged their "total support to measures taken by Bahrain to ensure security and stability."

Bahrain has been shaken by violent anti-government demonstrations and attacks on policemen since last December. Bahraini authorities have today accused Iran of exporting its influence on part of the majority Bahraini Shiite community.

Bahrain and its allies Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"The council condemns extremism, which leads to violence and terrorism, and totally rejects such actions in all their forms," said a communique issued after an emergency meeting here.

"The GCC is determined to confront this destructive phenomenon, which is incompatible with the spirit of Islam."

The statement called on the people of the region to "increase their vigilance and to take precautions to reject the destructive ideas prop-

agated by certain parties who are trying to incite discord and perpetrate acts of violence and terrorism" in the Gulf.

Before the start of the meeting, Bahrain Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa insisted that "the situation is stable in Bahrain and acts of violence and terrorism are coming to an end."

He charged that the recent unrest had been "planned and premeditated," adding that investigations and the religious beliefs of those accused revealed that "an extremist operation" had been behind the violence.

But authorities here, while never explicitly naming Iran, have indirectly denounced what they say has been Iranian influence on the local Shiite activists.

"The violence, blamed by western diplomats on economic difficulties, has left 12 people dead, including three policemen."

"Bahrain was to be the springboard for destabilising the domestic conditions in the GCC member states... to spread extremism and sedition."

He called for the reinforcement of joint security efforts, saying they were "a comprehensive siege against terrorism."

"The regrettable incidents

were on a basis of religious fundamentalism," the minister said. "The incidents were not spontaneous but provoked in implementation of an imported foreign-grown plot."

Egypt conference

Egypt will seek international cooperation to fight terrorism during a U.N. conference on crime prevention to be held in Cairo from April 29 to May 8, Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali said Tuesday.

"There are numerous links between organised crime and terrorism, which creates a need for international cooperation and support under the auspices of the United Nations," Mr. Ali said.

"Terrorism has become pervasive throughout the world. Therefore it had to be included on the conference agenda," he added.

Mr. Ali was speaking at a joint press conference in Cairo with Justice Minister Farouk Seif Al Nasr and Tourism Minister Manduh Al Beltagui.

Those responsible for attacks in Egypt "receive support, funds and orders from abroad," Mr. Ali said. "Terrorists in several European and African countries maintain links."

The head of Egyptian security said Monday that Egypt and Algeria were already cooperating in training and exchanges of information to combat anti-government militant groups.

Egypt hosted a U.N. Conference on Population and Development in September 1994 without incident, despite threats from militants.

A violent campaign by extremists aimed at toppling the Egyptian government has left 745 people dead since March 1992.

The justice minister said Egypt would propose creating a regional centre based in Cairo and grouping Mediterranean nations for training in crime prevention.

Corruption and "crimes against the environment" would also be on the conference agenda, he added.

All the U.N. member states, as well as the Vatican, Switzerland and Monaco, have been invited to the conference. Most are expected to be represented by their justice or interior ministers.

U.N. crime conferences have been held every five years since 1955. The last one, held in Havana, brought together 123 countries.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali are to address the Cairo gathering.

Bank of Egypt demands compensation from U.N.

GENEVA (Agencies) — A panel of lawyers from Germany, the Philippines and Tunisia were on Wednesday and Thursday to examine a claim to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) from the Bank of Egypt for Gulf war victims.

Sources close to the UNCC said the claim was on behalf of more than 900,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq for the alleged non-transference by Iraqi banks of remittances to their families in Egypt.

Sources in Geneva said that Baghdad had questioned the competence of the arbitration committee.

A U.N. spokesman, and an aide to Giuseppe Baldacci, the Italian commission chairman, confirmed there were "Iraqi reservations," but did not comment further in the absence of clarification from Baghdad.

The consolidated Egyptian claim — with an asserted value of approximately \$500 million — is being examined by a specially appointed panel of commissioners, including jurists from Germany, the Philippines and Tunisia, said the U.N. statement.

First the panel must decide whether the commission has jurisdiction over the claim, said the statement.

If the decision on jurisdiction is positive, the proceedings will progress to a second round to decide on the substance of the claim.

Both Iraqi and Egyptian representatives were expected to make formal presentations at the oral hearing.

Prior to a deadline in July last year for claims related to the Gulf war, the U.N. fund financed by Iraqi holdings blocked abroad reportedly received nearly 2.5 million requests from individuals, companies or governments from 90 countries. They demanded compensation totalling \$160 billion.

The governments of Egypt and Iraq filed separate written submissions with the UNCC in Geneva on March 14, presenting their respective views concerning the consolidated claims by the Central Bank of Egypt, said the U.N. statement.

Diplomats said Iraq had told the commission that it would not attend the hearing, even though it has already submitted a written response

to the Egyptian claim. "The timing is rather suspicious," one diplomat said. "The feeling is that the commission is getting caught up in the broader issue of oil sales."

Iraq's parliament was formally considering the latest U.N. Security Council resolution laying out the conditions for Iraq's return to the oil market.

The resolution, adopted on Friday, would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil in the next six months for food and medicine. Thirty per cent of the proceeds would go to the commission to fund compensation payments.

Baghdad's reaction to the resolution has been uniformly negative. The Iraqi cabinet, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, rejected it and called it a "dangerous violation of Iraq's sovereignty."

Diplomats said the panel, led by German Karl-Heinz Boeckstiegel, would meet irrespective of whether the Iraqis turned up. Egypt would still make its case before the panel.

The panel's first task is to decide whether the Egyptian claim is within the jurisdiction of the commission, whose mandate is to compensate "direct losses" caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait or a bilateral issue as argued by Baghdad.

Because of Iraq's refusal to make limited oil sales, the commission has so far been starved of funds.

According to the Egyptian claim, Iraqi banks withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances earned by about 900,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq before and just after the invasion. Egypt says that the banks stopped transferring the remittances on August 2, 1990, the day Iraq occupied Kuwait.

Diplomats said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry had sent a letter on Monday to Ambassador Baldacci saying it had not time to prepare properly for the hearing.

But one diplomatic source said the fact that the Iraqis had replied on time to the written submission by Egypt and had indicated last week that they would come suggested that Baghdad had an ulterior political motive, for snubbing the panel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish Cypriots fire on Syrian fishing boat

NICOSIA (AP) — A Syrian fisherman was shot dead when his boat was intercepted in waters off Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, an official radio station reported Tuesday. Three other fishermen were arrested after the vessel was stopped off the Karpas peninsula, Byrak Radio said. The three crewmen were taken before a court and remanded in custody for three days, the report added. It was the second such incident in a week. Last Thursday, Turkish Cypriot authorities opened fire on a Greek Cypriot boat, saying it had crossed into forbidden waters. They arrested the four-man crew, who were still held in a Turkish Cypriot prison.

Cyprus buys Russian armoured vehicles

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus has agreed to buy 43 Russian armoured vehicles for its national guard, at a cost of 40 million Cyprus pounds (\$85 million). Government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides, quoted by the Cyprus News Agency, said Tuesday the deal was clinched after the Russian government had guaranteed maintenance of the Tama BMP3 vehicles. The Cypriot national guard consists of 10,000 regular troops and nearly 90,000 reservists, all of them Greek-Cypriots.

Boudiaf accused to stand trial next week

ALGIERS (AFP) — The much-postponed trial of the alleged assassin of Algeria's former President Mohamed Boudiaf is due to begin next week, legal sources said. But lawyers said trial of the Algerian army officer, Second Lieutenant Lembarek Boumaarafl, could yet be delayed again because of his refusal to mount a defence for the murder of Boudiaf, who was gunned down as he gave a speech in June 1992. Judicial authorities have also been unable to find a lawyer to defend the officer, the sources said. Lt. Boumaarafl is currently being held in Blida military prison in the south of the country, having been transferred from Algiers' Serkadji jail following a riot by prisoners during which he received slight leg injuries. Lt. Boumaarafl told investigators he acted alone out of "religious conviction" in the killing. He was part of the presidential guard when he was alleged to have thrown a grenade at the official stand and shot Boudiaf in the back with a machine-gun as the president made a speech in the eastern town of Annaba on June 1992.

War may be solution for Jerusalem — Shenuda

CAIRO (AFP) — Pope Shenuda III, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, said war may be the only way for the Arabs to win back Jerusalem, in an interview published Wednesday. Israel "might make concessions on a number of territories but I think Jerusalem is a major obstacle which perhaps can only be solved by war," the patriarch of Egypt's Christians told the government weekly Al-Musawwar. "The Israelis are prepared to fight for Jerusalem down to the last bullet and the last man," which will require "a unified Arab position," he added. Pope Shenuda, who opposes visits by Egyptian Christians to the Holy City, has said he would forbid from communion anyone who went to Jerusalem for the Orthodox Easter on April 23. Egypt is home to some eight million Christians, according to unofficial estimates.

8 drug smugglers beheaded in Jeddah

RIYADH (AP) — Seven Pakistanis and a Nigerian were beheaded in Jeddah Wednesday for drug smuggling, matching the record for the number of traffickers executed in a single day in the kingdom. Eight narcotics smugglers, including five Pakistanis and an Afghan, were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Monday. The Interior Ministry said the eight men executed Wednesday were convicted by Islamic courts of smuggling drugs hidden in their stomachs into Jeddah.

Securing border with Iraq headache for Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Protecting its border with Iraq once the military push against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq is over is a major headache for Turkey.

Ruling out a multinational solution, Turkey is banking on cooperation with the main Kurdish movements of Iraq to patrol the border and stop infiltration by the Kurds of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) fighting for its own homeland in Turkey since 1984.

The first obstacle to such a deal is that the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) under Jalal Talabani have been involved in intermittent armed clashes for the past year as they wrestle for control of northern Iraq, where President Saddam Hussein's writ has failed to run since the end of the Gulf war in February-March 1991.

Those hostilities are partially to blame for the power vacuum in the frontier zone which allows the PKK for its part to operate at will. To

have any chance of success, Turkey needs to effect reconciliation between the Iraqi Kurd rivals, an uphill task at present.

The KDP announced a two-week unilateral ceasefire on April 8, but at talks in Tehran with Iranian officials also trying to mediate between the Iraqi Kurds, it demanded that PUK evacuate Erbil, the biggest northern town, before any direct contacts were made. The lack of trust between Turkey and the two rivals is uneven. The authorities here feel closer to the Barzani group, suspecting the Talabani of being sympathetic to the PKK cause.

After a first mass armed incursion against the PKK in north Iraq in October 1992, Turkey reached agreement with the Barzani movement on policing of the border. It was a logical choice of partnership, as Mr. Barzani's Peshmergas held the Iraqi-Turkish frontier zone while PUK units were down towards the south-east near the Iranian border.

But the policing arrange-

ment failed to work for a variety of reasons, including KDP-PUK clashes.

The Talabani want Turkey to treat them on an equal footing with the Barzanis. They have their eye in particular on a share of the lucrative border trade authorised by Ankara and tolerated by the international community despite the U.N. embargo against Baghdad.

The trading, in trucks using the single border post at Habur, consists of bartering Turkish foodstuffs for Iraqi fuel oil. Mr. Barzani's movement controls Habur, and raises taxes on the trading worth some \$100,000 a day.

Beyond those tactical calculations in the manoeuvring for local power, the nub of the problem for the Turks is how to persuade one lot of Kurds it is in their own interest to make an alliance with Ankara against other Kurds.

Contacts with Barzani stalwarts in the Zakho region bode ill for a successful outcome. Politburo member Fadil Mirani voiced doubts

about the workability of the Turkish plan and wished Turkey and the rebels "would settle their scores in Turkey, not in the north of Iraq" to force the Iraqi Kurds to help out, Turkey has two not inconsiderable means of pressure available.

Firstly, it can threaten to close down Habur, which would dry up KDP revenues. Secondly, as a Turkish diplomat hinted, it could make the much tougher move to stop offering "protection" to Iraqi Kurds through Operation Provide Comfort, whereby U.N. surveillance of northern Iraq relies on Turkish rearbase facilities. The mandate is renewable every six months, and the next vote by the Turkish parliament is due in June.

But that threat would be difficult to carry out because of certain opposition from the United States, which wants current anti-Saddam policy to stay in place, as Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott reminded the government on a visit last week.

Iran demands pullout of U.S. warships from Gulf

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran on Tuesday demanded an immediate pullout of U.S. warships from the Gulf.

"We also believe that it is with the regional states to preserve security and stability in this region, not foreign powers," Mr. Rafsanjani said in a speech in the Indian parliament.

The presence of foreign fleets "tend to aggravate tensions," the Iranian president said.

U.S. forces are deployed in the Gulf, ostensibly to guard against renewed Iraqi aggression. The Iranians, who have long aspired to dominate the Gulf, resent the presence of U.S. and European forces in what they consider their sphere of influence.

"We are opposed to the domineering policies of the great powers, particularly U.S.A. and their efforts to exploit international orga-

nisations and fora for their illegitimate goals," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Mr. Rafsanjani was on a three-day visit to India to seek closer cooperation in modernising its economy. Iran's economy has suffered because of trade restrictions imposed by the United States and a few other Western nations that accuse Iran of sponsoring "international terrorism."

India wants Iranian help in reaching its exports to the emerging markets of Central Asia. On Tuesday, the two nations along with Turkmenistan signed a trilateral agreement to create a trade route from India to Central Asia through the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

Indian exports to the Central Asian republics are expensive because they have to go through Russian ports.

Officials said the agreement on extending transit facilities to Indian goods was

signed after hectic consultations between the representatives of the three countries.

Boris Shikmuradov, Turkmenistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee signed the agreement.

Under the scheme, Indian goods would be shipped to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas where they would be taken by road to the Central Asian republics.

India, seeking to increase trade with Central Asia and reducing the growing influence of its arch-rival Pakistan in the region, sought Iran's help to win access to a traditional market after losing it following the break up of the former Soviet Union.

India and Iran also signed bilateral agreements covering environmental protection, drug trafficking, cultural ex-

changes, promotion of tourism and cooperation in communications.

Officials said India would help Iran in upgrading its telegraph and communications system. India is already involved in railways and fertiliser projects in Iran.

India and Iran also agreed to form a joint venture company for exploration and production of oil.

Mr. Rafsanjani repeated an Iranian offer to construct a pipeline to carry petroleum from Iran to refineries in India via Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Although Mr. Rafsanjani's visit would lead to closer economic ties, it was unlikely that the two countries would move politically closer. Pursuing free-market reforms, India has improved its relations with the United States, one of Iran's main foes. India also is uncomfortable about Iran's support to Pakistan.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:00 Denise the Menace
13:30 My Secret Identity
14:00 NBA
15:00 Survival
16:00 Blue Heelers
16:30 Cartoon for Children
16:40 L'Ecole Des Fens
17:15 Les Cies de Port Boyard
19:00 News in French
19:15 Planete En Equation
19:30 The Alchem Show
20:00 The Blue Revolution
21:15 E. N. C.
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "The Good Fight"

PRAYER TIMES

04:38 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:12 'Asr
19:12 Maghrib
20:34 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

657440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622365

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

775251

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel.

625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824328

German-speaking Evangelical Con-

gregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to

rise slightly with winds north-

westerly moderate. In Aqaba,

moderate weather conditions will

prevail with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 25/19

Agaba 11/28

Desert 3/22

Jordan Valley 11/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 17 Aqaba 25 Humidity

readings: Amman 37 per cent.

Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fakhri Bilbeisi 663412

Dr. Khalid Asfour 699440

Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 893140

Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916

Ras pharmacy 661912

Ford pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644943

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:

Dr. Foyez Al Qadi 248743

Al Qadi pharmacy 661111

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khushashoh

983023

Khalid pharmacy 983417

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

IN BRIEF

Fire on Syrian fishing boat
A Syrian fisherman was shot dead in waters off Turkey, a coast guard official said. The fisherman was on a boat carrying 15 people. The boat was carrying 15 people. The boat was carrying 15 people.

Lebanese armoured vehicle
Lebanese army has agreed to buy 40 armoured vehicles from a Turkish company. The deal was worth \$10 million. The deal was worth \$10 million.

Stand trial next week
The much-postponed trial of a man accused of the assassination of a former president will begin next week. The trial will begin next week.

for Jerusalem - Shaleh
A man who was arrested in Jerusalem is being held in custody. The man is being held in custody.

beheaded in Jeddah
A man was beheaded in Jeddah. The man was beheaded in Jeddah.

for Turkey
A man was arrested in Turkey. The man was arrested in Turkey.

Curcassian youth perform a traditional
Curcassian youth performed a traditional dance as part of a ceremony. The ceremony was held in Jeddah.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opens the first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Photo by Crystal)

Queen opens first pan-Arab congress of obstetrics and gynaecology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened the first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a medical exhibition, which featured obstetrical and gynaecological surgery equipment and medicines manufactured in Jordan by national and international companies, and commended the high standard and diversity of Jordanian-manufactured products.

The Queen concluded her visit by personally thanking the speakers and the members of the executive committee of the congress, the statement said.

The first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which is also the third national congress, comprises 500 participants from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, the United States, England, Belgium, Germany and Russia.

The congress agenda includes 42 lectures and papers on infertility, gynaecology, obstetrics and cancer, which are followed by discussion sessions; it also offers one workshop on hypertension in pregnancy, said the statement.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Mrs. Aref Batayneh, was received by Minister of Health Aref Batayneh, Mohammad Al Zu'bi, the chairman of the congress, and Bassem Dajani, the president of the Jordan Medical Association.

The 3-day conference is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Princess Basma stresses importance of effort towards women's health

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned from Perth, Australia, where she attended the third meeting of the Global Commission on Women's Health, a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development statement Wednesday said.

At the meeting, Princess Basma, who joined the commission earlier this year, stressed the importance of cooperation on women's health issues on the regional and global levels, the statement said.

The commission was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations and comprises eminent personalities, including political, scientific and professional leaders throughout the world.

It is concerned that women suffer a disadvantaged health status throughout their lives, as compared to men. This is a result of the disadvantaged legal, economic and social status of women, whose specific needs and characteristics are inadequately addressed in health policy, delivery and research, the commission believes.

The Global Commission on Women's Health has several goals related to its aim of fully achieving the realisation of women's health based upon the inalienable right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, according to the commission.

The third meeting focused on the discussion of a global platform of action for the health chapter of the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September and which emerged from the Preparatory Committee meeting in New York last November.

The meeting resulted in a declaration on the points which the commission felt should be stressed in Beijing as well as a coordination plan of action that is to set the tasks of the commission and the individual members during the Beijing conference.



Curcassian youth perform a traditional dance as part of the ceremonies "Zafzafa" dance as part of the ceremonies Programme and has been partly funded by a \$25,738 grant from the U.S. (Photo Centre in Sukhneh near Zarqa. The by Nidal Zubeir)

Jordan, Lebanon sign 'milestone' travel, transportation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Samir Kavar and Lebanon's Ambassador to Jordan William Habib Wednesday signed an agreement to organise travel and transportation between their two countries and described the deal as a major milestone in cementing bilateral ties.

The agreement, which is designed to facilitate and stimulate the transportation of goods and travellers across the borders of the two countries, is expected also to open the door for other mutual agreements on cooperation in trade, economic and industrial fields, said Mr. Kavar at the signing ceremony.

Replying, the Lebanese ambassador echoed the hope that Lebanon and Jordan would take further steps towards concluding other agreements, noting that the deal was aimed at safeguarding the interests of the two



Minister of Transportation Samir Kavar and Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib Wednesday sign an agreement on travel and transportation (Petra photo)

He noted however, that the agreement does not exempt the transporters from paying the transit fees as provided for in the pan-Arab transit agreement.

New tourist transport company ends JETT monopoly

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The licensing of a new tourist transport company brought to an end JETT's 20-year monopoly on tourist transportation.

The Jordan Investment and Tourism Transport Company is the first transport company licensed by the Ministry of Tourism to operate in the Kingdom since the official end of JETT's monopoly in June 1994. Since that time, JETT had enjoyed a de facto monopoly while regulations for transport companies were being approved by the Cabinet.

Vice Chairman of the Board Michael Nazzari, said that the company could wait

up until five months for the delivery of new buses. In the meantime, he said, the company is searching for buses available worldwide to provide transportation, which is desperately lacking during this tourist season.

JETT, with its fleet of 150, has rented 65 additional buses already this year from private companies to meet demand for transport, which is expected to increase as the heaviest traffic of the tourist season is yet to come.

"We are trying to find buses in free trade zones," Mr. Nazzari said. "If it is cost effective, we may bring them." He said that the company may have found 10-15 buses from Mercedes, and that if the "price was right," the buses could be in Jordan within 10 days.

"We are trying to operate as soon as possible," he added.

The company's immediate plans are to purchase 50 large- and 30 medium-sized buses with the intention to increase the volume of the fleet as demand necessitates.

According to Mr. Nazzari, the company has already closed tenders and is reviewing offers from 13 companies.

Under transport regulations established last month, all new companies are required to have a minimum of 50 buses and a JD 10 million capital.

New regulations also stipulate that the Ministry of Tourism will regulate the rental price of buses, which now stands at approximately \$300 per day. While some agents have been critical of this regulation, Mr. Nazzari contends that \$300 is a fair price.

"We have a comparable price to the rest of the region," he said. "And the minister is open enough to debate this if we decide that we want to change the price."

"We are not really here to compete," he said, "but rather complement the current demand on the market — no one should expect a reduction in prices, just more services."

In a statement to Al Aswaaq Arabic daily, the company's president, Raja' Muasher, said that the total investment will reach JD 12 million including the capital and JD 2 million in bank loans. The company expects to regain its capital in four and a half years with an annual average return on investment of 18.15% for the next five years, he said.

Mr. Nazzari said that the company has leased land on University Road for its headquarters and is looking for a plot for the buses. He estimates that the company will employ between 130-140 people.

Members of the nine-member board of directors were elected Monday night. They are as follows: Senior representatives of Raja' Muasher & Brothers (Raja' Muasher president), Nazzari and Brothers (Michael Nazzari, vice-president); Grand Palace Hotels; the Housing Bank; the Social Security Corporation; the National Shipping Lines Company; Regency Hotels (Sami Sawalha); Rami Bargouthi and Munther Kasi.

Lloyd's Register workshop highlights ways to benefit from international quality control experts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan could take advantage of the services offered by a reputed international organisation to ensure that the Kingdom's industries use the right technology and equipment and improve the quality of its products to international standards and specifications, a one-day workshop heard on Wednesday.

The workshop, organised by the Lloyd's Register of Shipping in coordination with the Ministry of Planning, came amid a strong debate among Jordanian industries on how to improve their production methods as well as quality standards and increase exports.

The gathering, attended by about 50 participants representing the government as well as the private sector, was the first of its kind to be held in Jordan.

As participants put it, oversight that lead to slack in quality control and buyer's specifications could be devastating for small companies.

They cited the instance of a Jordanian company which sent a consignment of finished goods to Ukraine but could not get paid simply because the goods did not conform to the buyer's specifications.

The buyer, who was protected by a clause that said payment was contingent upon successful inspection of the goods, simply refused to pay.

This would not have happened had there been a mechanism under which an international organisation acceptable to both the seller and buyer carried out the inspection and made sure that the goods were not shipped without meeting the required specifications.

That is where Lloyd's Register comes into play, said its representatives at the workshop. They noted that the organisation had offices/representatives in almost every country who could be called upon to carry out inspections on exports and issue certificates to the satisfaction of both parties.

Another problem is to do with the environment. In many cases, potential Western donors and financiers balk at extending funds to projects which might harm the environment, noted Tawfiq Kavar, who chaired the working sessions of the seminar.

"We in Jordan do not have a law on the environment," noted Mr. Kavar, a prominent businessman and president of the Jordan Shipping Agents' Association.

"What we urgently need is the enactment of a law on the environment that will be conforming with international and United Nations specifications that would eventually be applicable to every industry in the country."

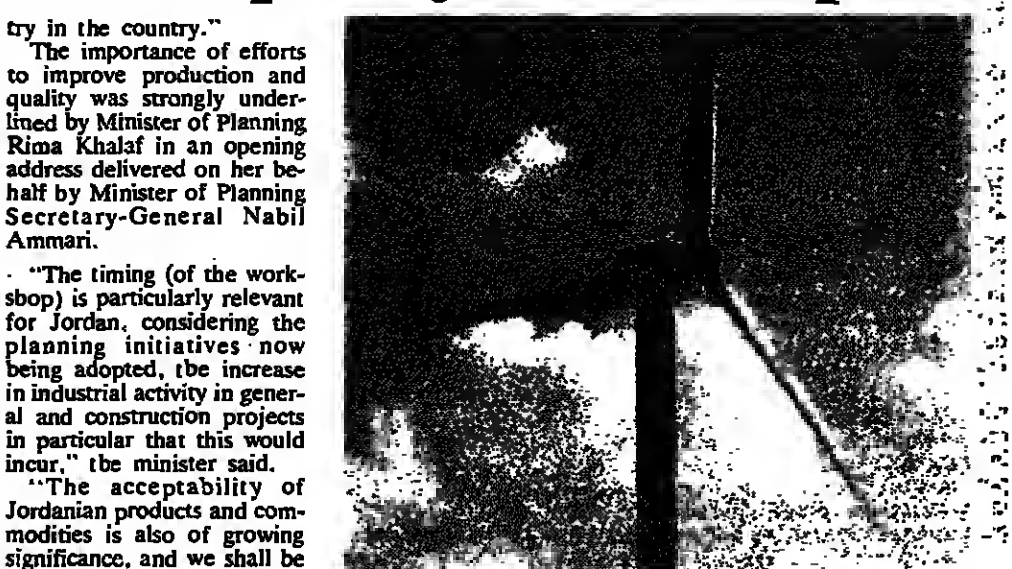
The importance of efforts to improve production and quality was strongly underlined by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf in an opening address delivered on her behalf by Minister of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Amman.

"The timing (of the workshop) is particularly relevant for Jordan, considering the planning initiatives now being adopted, the increase in industrial activity in general and construction projects in particular that this would incur," the minister said.

"The acceptability of Jordanian products and commodities is also of growing significance, and we shall be hearing how Lloyd's Register can support us on this," said the minister.

During the discussions that followed, Lloyd's Register representatives presented the importance of maintaining high and efficient production standards and quality as well as means to realise the best returns from investments.

Leading the Lloyd's Register team to the presentation was A.J. Sanders, director of the Industrial Division and Advisory Services of the London-based organisation, who summarised the concepts, standards and terminology used in management of industrial plants, equipment and projects "from inception through to completion."



A Lloyds Register Industrial Division quality inspection and advisory services site for wind energy projects

"Lloyd's Register has more than 2,000 qualified engineers spread all over the world," said Mr. Sanders, noting that they could carry out inspection of production equipment to ensure that the buyer "would get the best return for his investment."

"The long-term experience of Lloyd's Register as a third party inspector of plant and equipment for and on behalf of governments worldwide has been recently applied to the privatisation of state-run statutory inspectorates with resulting gains in efficiency and effectiveness," said a general summary of Lloyd's Register activities.

Lloyd's Register describes itself as a non-profit, independent organisation with no affiliation to any government or non-governmental institution.

It was founded in 1760 and constituted as the world's leading shipping classification society; today, the organisation offers all kinds of marine, offshore and industrial survey and advisory services, "improving quality, enhancing safety and protecting the environment," it says.

WHAT'S GOING ON

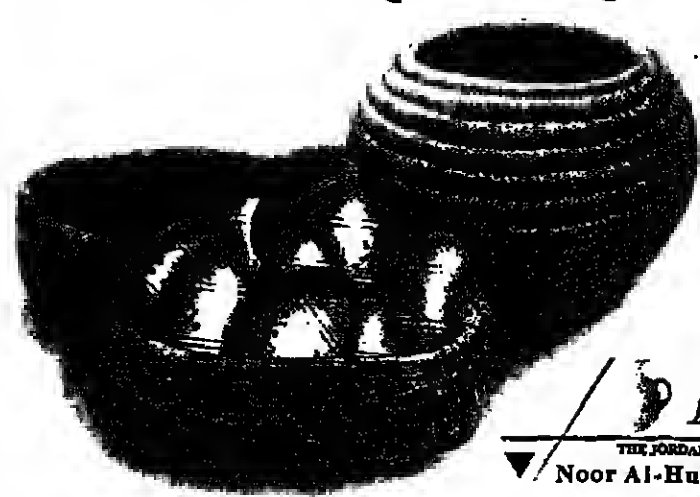
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- EARTH WEEK**
 - Earth Week activities consisting of an exhibition of catalogues by major environment-oriented companies, student and school presentations, business seminars for professionals, electronic dialogues between experts in the U.S. and their Jordanian counterparts, public awareness demonstrations and more at the American Center.
- FILMS**
 - Film entitled "Madonna With Chancellor Rolin" at Darat Al Funun (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

- Film entitled "El Tiempo de Neville" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- JEWELLERY DISPLAY**
 - An exhibition of jewellery inspired by the nature of Dhana (designed by Ammar Khammash in cooperation with the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature) at Darat Al Funun.
- EXHIBITION**
 - Exhibition of paintings by Mahmoud Sadeq at Alia Art Gallery.
 - Photography exhibition entitled "Fuentes de la Memoria" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
 - Exhibition of water colour and oil paintings by Jordanian artist Sa'id Haddadin at Orfali Art Gallery.
 - Exhibition of paintings by Samer Osama at

- the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by 13 leading Jordanian artists at the Italian Language Centre (Tel. 699348).
- Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mahruq Din Adhim at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis.
- Exhibition of art by Ahmad Na'wash at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- A collection of photos of Middle East doors by Julia Reinhold at the Gallery, off the main lobby, Inter-Continental Hotel.
- Exhibition of art by Moroccan artist Farid Belkhalia at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Exhibition of copper sculptures by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- Exhibition of graphic works by Rafiq Lahham at Darat Al Funun. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.

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More than 260 ill after odour detected at Japan rail station

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) — More than 260 people fell ill Wednesday from fumes detected at a railway station in the Tokyo commuter belt, triggering fears of a new nerve gas attack on the Japanese transport system.

Japanese police said they were investigating the incident at Yokohama, 30 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, as a case of "assault and battery."

"It was not a natural phenomenon but involved a foreign object," a spokesman for Yokohama's prefectural police told AFP. "We are investigating it as a case of assault and battery."

Police are still trying to determine the source of the deadly nerve gas sarin that killed 12 people and injured 5,500 in a random attack on the Tokyo subway only a month earlier.

Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka said checks on the casualties from Yokohama showed no traces of the highly toxic gas.

A police spokesman said at least 261 people reported feeling ill, and 19 were hospitalized.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp., NHK, said 304 people had been treated at hospitals,

with some saying that they smelled a pungent odour similar to sulphur or paint thinner.

"When everybody around me was coughing, the word sarin popped up and fear came to me immediately," Kyoko Amano, 52, told AFP. She was treated for a minor headache after inhaling fumes in the train station's underground corridor.

Ms. Amano said her husband, Kiyosuke, 51, was hospitalized with high blood pressure and a headache after the pair rushed to a police box at the train station after inhaling the fumes. She said scores of other victims were already there, complaining of similar symptoms.

The vast majority of the casualties were not seriously hurt and all were conscious, officials said. They mainly complained of throat pains, nausea, irritated eyes and coughs.

A doctor at a hospital in Yokohama, Shigehiko Hattori, ruled out sarin poisoning and said "they may have possibly inhaled chlorine-based or other chemicals."

The fumes were detected in the main underground concourse of Yokohama's central train station, and on a

train that stopped there, local reports said.

Police suspect the doomsday cult Aum Supreme Truth in the Tokyo subway attack, but cult leaders denied Wednesday any involvement in that gasing or the Yokohama incident.

"I wish they would catch the real perpetrators soon," said Aum attorneys Yoshinobu Aoyama.

Witnesses told police that they saw suspicious looking men, one carrying a brown bag, at stations in Yokohama about the time the smell broke out in the train, reports said.

Ryoko Akimoto, 19, a who works at a store at the train station, said she saw a large crowd of pain-stricken commuters stampede immediately after the smell was detected at about 1:00 p.m. (0400 GMT).

"I've never seen anything like it, they were all running so fast," she said.

Police beefed up patrols in the Tokyo subway late Wednesday.

Kei Inukai, 22, a businessman who passed through one of the corridors where the smell originated said, "It's just scary."

"I thought such incidents

were far from us. It appears that there is no safe place left in Japan."

Scores of passengers also reported ill at two neighbouring stations on the Tokyo-Yokohama line after arriving by train from Yokohama. Three female passengers were treated for throat pains and other ailments after they arrived at two Tokyo train stations from Yokohama, police said.

Dozens of fire engines, police cars and ambulances were rushed to Yokohama station and rescue workers clad in chemical protection suits with air tanks walked among commuters on the train station platform.

Police also cordoned off a station underpass where the smell originated, and hundreds of soldiers and police officers scoured the area for evidence.

The station and the underpass were later reopened in time for the evening rush hour.

Sarin, devised by the Nazis in the 1930s, is so lethal that a small droplet is enough to kill an adult. It is also odorless, although survivors of the March 20 atrocity reported a vile, pungent smell.



Pastor Tuihant Martial (right) presides over funeral services for Cheyenne Brando, the daughter of U.S. actor Marlon Brando, in Papeete, Tahiti. Brando, 25, hanged herself at

her mother's home in Tahiti. She was buried in the family crypt of her boyfriend Dag Drollet, who was killed in 1990 by her half-brother Christian Brando (AFP photo)

Brando misses daughter's funeral in Tahiti

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (R) — Actor Marlon Brando's daughter Cheyenne, who hanged herself Sunday, was buried Tuesday alongside her murdered boyfriend on the South Pacific island of Tahiti.

There was no sign of her father as Cheyenne was laid to rest in the Uranie Cemetery on the French Polynesian island in a flower-covered coffin alongside Dag Drollet, shot by her half-brother Christian nearly five years ago.

She was found hanged in her bedroom in Punaia on the west of the island Sunday.

Relatives said she had been depressed since the murder of Drollet, for which Christian is serving a jail sentence.

She had made three previous attempts to kill herself and had been treated for depression in France and the United States as well as Tahiti.

She was said to be particularly upset by a Papeete judge's decision to leave her young son Tuki in the care of Cheyenne's mother Tarita, a Tahitian actress who was Brando's third wife.

Tarita was among more than 200 mourners. Cheyenne's half-brother Mike also attended the funeral.

The ceremony was led by a Protestant priest at a church in Faaa, west of Tahiti's main

town, Papeete. Brando's agent Ed Limato said in Los Angeles the actor would not comment on his daughter's death.

Brando, 71, has zealously guarded his privacy for decades.

Christian Brando was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in 1991 for the murder of Drollet. The California Department of Correction said he could be released as early as January 1996.

The proposal for Cheyenne to be buried next to her murdered boyfriend was made by Drollet's father Jacques-Denis in an agreement with Cheyenne's Tahitian family.

During Christian's trial, the court was told that before Drollet was killed, Cheyenne, then four months pregnant, had complained of having been beaten by her lover.

Charges against Cheyenne for complicity in the murder were dropped in 1993 after legal wrangling.

Her lawyer Jacques Verges, a colourful French advocate who has also represented Carlos "the Jackal" and Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, argued that because of her depression, the proceedings were a threat to her life.

During his son's trial, Brando broke a long public

silence, telling reporters and photographers he had become a recluse to preserve his sanity.

"This (Hollywood) is a false world, and it's been a struggle to try to preserve your sanity in a world that has been taken away from you," he said at the time.

More recently, he returned to the screen with a role in the comedy The Freshman as well as an acclaimed performance as a psychiatrist in the romantic comedy Don Juan De Marco.

Last year, he published his autobiography and appeared in a long and rambling live interview with Larry King on CNN television.

One of the United States' great actors, Brando's performances in A Streetcar Named Desire (1951), The Wild One (1953) and On the Waterfront (1954) were acclaimed as classics.

Brando won Academy Awards for his roles in On The Waterfront and The Godfather (1972). But much of his later career was an anti-climax and his family life was full of turmoil.

Critics both hailed and panned his performances in later movies, such as Last Tango in Paris (1972) and Apocalypse Now (1979), mirroring the entertainment industry's ambivalent attitude towards him.

Chinese road deaths up 9.7%

BEIJING (AFP) — China's roads claimed 15,562 lives in the first three months of this year, up 9.7 per cent from the same 1994 period, the Xinhua News Agency said. The number of accidents was up 4.1 per cent to 61,227, while economic losses resulting from crashes surged 35.1 per cent to 389 million yuan (\$46 million) the agency said late Tuesday. China's economic growth has been mirrored by a sharp rise in road accidents and fatalities amid a boom in the number of privately owned vehicles. More than 66,000 people died on the roads in the whole of 1994, up 4.5 per cent from the previous year. Xinhua quoted Ministry of Public Security officials as urging transport departments nationwide to improve order on the country's roads and take strict measures to reduce the number of major accidents.

French musician wins damages over article

PARIS (AFP) — A judge ordered a weekly scandal magazine Tuesday to pay 50,000 francs (\$10,000) to French synthesizer superstar Jean-Michel Jarre for invasion of privacy — but did not entirely spare his blushes in the case. Judge Marie-Therese Feydeau said the composer of Oxygene and Equinoxe and his British wife Charlotte Rampling had not always shown complete discretion and should not be surprised at their treatment. Jarre had been demanding the withdrawal of this week's edition of the magazine Voici over an article and photographs suggesting he has been seeing another woman. He had also been demanding one million francs in damages against the magazine "incontestably pried on the private life of Jean-Michel Jarre," and she therefore ordered the 50,000 francs damages to be paid by the publishers of the magazine, Prisma Presse. But she added that the article should not have surprised Jarre. "It does not seem he was surprised in an intimate situation, since the photos were taken in a public place," she said, she added that the couple "have not always shown the utmost discretion when it comes to their relations as a couple" and therefore rejected their demand for a larger payout.

China to lift foreign film quota

BEIJING (AFP) — China has decided to lift its quota on foreign film imports, while brushing aside concerns that overseas blockbusters will hurt the ailing domestic movie industry. As well as lifting the quota — which has stood at around 60 films a year — the director of the China Film Import and Export Corp. (CHINAFLIM), Wang Zengfu, said that China would see through its 1994 pledge to import 10 top-grossing foreign films annually. The U.S. blockbuster True Lies — starring Arnold Schwarzenegger — is due to open in cinemas across China later this month. It would be "unwise" to protect domestic studios by closing their market to the outside world, Mr. Wang was quoted as saying by the Xinhua News Agency. Overseas competition will "help develop the Chinese film industry," Mr. Wang said, adding that the imports were needed to satisfy popular demand. China's state-run film industry, dogged by poor quality production, has been in free-fall since 1979, with box office receipts plunging from 29.3 billion yuan (\$3.4 billion) to 9.5 billion yuan in 1993. Following the lifting of the quota, CHINAFLIM will continue to act as the sole importer of foreign films, the number of which will be determined by CHINAFLIM's capacity and "market fluctuations," Mr. Wang said.

Crews freeze ground for cables under Pisa Tower

PISA, Italy (AP) — Crews used liquid nitrogen to freeze the ground around the Leaning Tower of Pisa Tuesday while starting to install cables designed to pull the structure more upright. Hundreds of visitors watched columns of white vapor from the super-cold material rise from holes around the 54-metre (180-foot) tower. Liquid nitrogen was used to avoid dangerous ground vibrations during work intended to salvage the 12th century landmark.

Lugar enters U.S. presidential race

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Indiana Senator Richard Lugar Wednesday becomes the eighth Republican to enter the 1996 presidential race, running on a programme of competence in foreign affairs and radical tax reform.

Sen. Lugar, 63, is highly respected in Washington, especially for his expertise on foreign policy. But he is little known outside his home state, and his restrained, intellectual style — some might call it boring — may not wear well on the campaign trail.

"Lugar is a cool person at a time when people are looking for someone hot," said David Caputo, a professor of political science at Purdue University in Indiana.

With Sen. Lugar's entry into the race, the Republican field for 1996 is almost complete. It will become so when California Governor Pete Wilson declares his candidacy some time next month.

Those already in the race are: Senate majority leader Bob Dole, Texas Senator

Phil Gramm, former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, California representative Robert Dornan and conservative commentators Alan Keyes and Pat Buchanan.

The Republican nominee will almost certainly face President Bill Clinton, who looks unlikely to face a serious challenge for the Democratic nomination.

Sen. Lugar is staking his claim largely on foreign policy, a subject which rarely looms very large in presidential campaigns and is likely to fall even more into the shadows with the end of the cold war.

"Americans want a leader they can trust," Sen. Lugar said when he announced his intention of running. "Perhaps charisma substitutes for experience, but I don't think so."

"All of my life's experiences have prepared me for this challenge," Sen. Lugar said, citing his record as Rhodes scholar, business-

man, mayor of Indianapolis and senator for 18 years.

He has recently tried to broaden his appeal by proposing to scrap the federal income tax and replace it with a 17 per cent sales tax. The suggestion has met with a mixed response, even from Republican faithful.

Sen. Lugar says his experience as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee for six years and now as chairman of Agriculture Committee and eight years as mayor of Indianapolis gives him the background a president needs.

Polls show Sen. Lugar has a large mountain to climb. Sen. Dole leads the race by a wide margin while one recent poll of Republican voters showed only five per cent wanted Sen. Lugar as their nominee.

Meanwhile former Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey announced Tuesday he has decided not to challenge President Clinton in the 1996 campaign for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

Spanish opposition chief escapes car bomb attack

MADRID (R) — Basque separatists tried to kill Spanish opposition leader Jose Maria Aznar Wednesday but the Popular Party (PP) chief escaped with minor cuts and bruises from a car bomb which injured eight in Madrid.

Police said the guerrillas packed a small black Fiat with some 25 kilos of explosives which were detonated near Mr. Aznar's car in the residential Arturo Soria district of northeast Madrid just after 8 a.m. (0600 GMT).

They said Mr. Aznar's vehicle was virtually destroyed by the explosion and the politician was almost certainly saved from serious injury or even death by the vehicle's armour plating.

One of the injured, an elderly woman crushed under a wall brought down by the blast, was in critical condition.

About an hour later police and firemen rushed to the scene of a second explosion near a major railway station in northern Madrid. They said the car bombers had apparently blown up their own getaway car and no injuries were reported.

Justice and Interior Minister Juan Alberto Belloch quickly put the blame for the attack on ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), who have killed some 800 people in a 26-year fight for an independent Basque state.

aggressive efforts in negotiations on cars and car parts.

He also said he did not mean to hurt anyone's feelings in Japan by saying recently that the United States owed no apology to the Japanese for the U.S. nuclear attack in World War II.

"No one can fail to be sensitive to the loss. Do I wish none of it had happened? Of course I do. But that does not mean that President Truman, in the moment of decision, made the wrong decision or that the United States can now apologise for a decision that we did not believe then, and I do not believe now, was the wrong one," he said.

President Clinton said the West could not give Russia a veto over NATO expansion.

"We cannot and we should not give any nation a veto over the expansion of NATO when it is otherwise appropriate to do so," he told the news conference.

The cultural criticism prize went to The New York Times.

Stephanie Saul and Brian

Clinton declares he is relevant

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton's voice may not be as loud as it once was, given Republican control of Congress, but he is insisting he is relevant and determined to prove it.

Mr. Clinton himself raised the issue of his own relevance during a Tuesday night news conference that he wanted to use to score some political points while Congress is on Easter recess. The news conference was carried live by CBS and CNN but ignored by the two other major networks, ABC and NBC.

Asked if he was worried about making sure his voice was heard, Mr. Clinton volunteered: "The president is relevant here, especially an activist president, and the fact that I am willing to work with the Republicans. The question is are they willing to work with me?"

The question of Mr. Clinton's relevancy engulfs Washington, with political experts saying he must take bold action to reassert himself heading into his 1996 re-election battle. But Mr. Clinton's point was that "the constitution gives me relevancy."

To prove it, Mr. Clinton challenged Congress to submit a welfare reform bill by July 4 that he can sign. The Democratic president said he did not want a "pile of vetoes" of Republican legislation, but has deep problems with the House-approved \$189 billion tax cut.

But he continued to resist one popular Republican idea — replacing the graduated income tax system with a flat tax that charges the wealthy and the middle-class at the same percentage.

And Mr. Clinton vowed to fight for his embattled nominee for surgeon general — the top U.S. health official — Henry Foster, despite a threat by Senate majority leader Bob Dole, a Republican presidential candidate, not to bring the nomination up for Senate confirmation.

Mr. Foster's nomination is in trouble over his conflicting accounts of how many abor-



U.S. President Bill Clinton speaks during a press conference at the White House (AFP photo)

tions he performed.

"Yes, I'm going to the mat for the nomination," Mr. Clinton said. "He is qualified. He should be confirmed. He should not be caught up in any kind of politics."

Mr. Clinton also faces a number of pressing international concerns, from Russia's plans to sell two nuclear reactors to Iran, to faltering U.S. talks with Japan over car industries.

The president said he hoped to persuade Russian President Boris Yeltsin to give up the planned sale to the reactors at their summit next month, and to reassure Moscow that NATO's plans to expand should not be seen as a threat.

On Japan, Mr. Clinton said Washington and Tokyo "should not be at risk of a trade war" but gave full support to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor's

Top journalism award goes to Virgin Islands daily

NEW YORK (AFP) — The highest U.S. award for journalism, the Pulitzer Prize, was awarded Tuesday to the Virgin Islands Daily News of St. Thomas for public service journalism.

The Virgin Islands daily won its prize for exposing the connections between a regional crime wave and corruption in the criminal justice system.

Other awards included two for the New York daily Newsday for investigative reporting and commentary and two to the Wall Street Journal for national reporting and feature writing.

Two awards went to The Washington Post for explanatory journalism and spot news photography and two to the Associated Press for international reporting and feature photography.

Other awards included best spot news coverage for the Los Angeles Times, best beat reporting for the Boston Globe, editorial writing for the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times, and editorial cartooning for the Atlanta Constitution.

The cultural criticism prize went to The New York Times.

Stephanie Saul and Brian



This photo, provided by Columbia University, is part of the Pulitzer Prize winning portfolio of the Associated Press staff in Rwanda. The photo by Jean-Marc Bouja moved on the wire Aug. 20, 1994, and shows Rwandan refugee

children pleading with Zairian soldiers to be let across the bridge separating Rwanda and Zaire where their mother had crossed moments earlier (AFP photo)

Donovan of Newsday were awarded the investigative reporting Pulitzer for their stories on disability pension abuses by police.

"My husband won the award seven years ago," Saul said, referring to Walt Bogdanich who was with the Wall Street Journal at the time. He

has since become an ABC producer.

"It didn't help his career much but he used it as an excuse to stop doing work around the house. I told him just now on the phone that my seven years is just about to begin," she added.

The Pulitzer Prize —

named after newspaper mogul Joseph Pulitzer, has been awarded each May since 1917 for achievements in journalism, letters and music.

Each prize carries an award of \$3,000 with the exception of the Public Service Award which is marked by a gold medal.

Chinese road deaths up 9.7%

BEIJING (AFP) — Road deaths in China rose 9.7 per cent in the first three months of 1995 compared with the same period in 1994, according to a report by the Chinese government.

The report said that the number of road deaths in China rose from 10,000 in the first three months of 1994 to 10,970 in the same period of 1995.

The report also said that the number of road deaths in China rose from 10,000 in the first three months of 1994 to 10,970 in the same period of 1995.

French music wins damage over article

PARIS (AFP) — French music has won a court victory over a magazine article that accused it of being a "cultural industry" rather than a "cultural movement".

The Paris court ruled in favour of the French music industry, ordering the magazine to pay damages for the article.

Chinese to lead foreign

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese leaders are expected to lead a delegation to the United Nations conference on the environment in Rio de Janeiro.

The delegation is expected to include Chinese leaders and officials.

Crews freed ground for peace

BEIJING (AFP) — Crews have been freed from the ground for peace in the region.

The crews were freed from the ground for peace in the region.

Juppe accuses Balladur of hate campaign

PARIS (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe accused Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Wednesday of waging a hate campaign against fellow conservative presidential rival Jacques Chirac, injecting new venom five days before the first round of the election.



French Socialist Party presidential candidate Lionel Jospin (left) and former Socialist Minister Martine Aubry (right) before holding a campaign meeting. The first round of elections is set for April 23 (AFP photo)

He said Mr. Balladur was deliberately distorting Mr. Chirac's words on wage demands and economic policy.

Mr. Juppe is tipped as Mr. Balladur's possible successor as premier if, as polls forecast, Mr. Chirac wins the two-round election on Sunday and May 7.

"It is not normal for things to have taken this turn, which is almost hateful. If Mr. Balladur spent one-tenth of the energy fighting (Socialist candidate) Lionel Jospin that he spends attacking Jacques Chirac, he would have a better chance of reaching the second round," Mr. Juppe told France-Inter radio.

"Mr. Balladur is using arguments in bad faith," he said, accusing the prime minister of distorting Mr. Chirac's expression of sympathy for some wage claims by claiming that the Paris mayor wanted to give everyone a pay rise immediately.

Mr. Juppe also charged Mr. Balladur with using tactics "unworthy of a statesman" by accusing Mr. Chirac of weakening the French franc on currency markets with his criticism of Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet's call for wage restraint.

The franc slipped against the German mark Monday in what dealers said was a reaction to Mr. Chirac's comments that Mr. Trichet had no right to dictate economic policy to the government.

The last opinion polls published before a blackout took effect last Sunday showed Mr. Chirac with about 26 per cent, followed by Mr. Jospin on about 20 per cent and Mr. Balladur with just over 16 per cent.

Comments by several prominent Balladur supporters in the cabinet Tuesday suggested they doubted the prime minister would reach the run-off between the two best-placed candidates to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

"Many French people are still questioning themselves," he told Radio Classique before addressing a rally of about 8,000 people in Nantes, west France, in which he urged supporters to keep up their enthusiasm in the final days.

"French voters... believed at the last election that things were going to change, but now they have the feeling that they haven't," he said, projecting himself as the candidate best able to unite the French.

Philippe Mechet of the Louis Harris Polling Institute said the weakness of the left made the election hard to predict.

"Jospin has a potential far higher than his current vote. The problem is that he has not managed to convince the undecided that he can be elected," he told la Chaine Info Television.

Many leftists, dismayed by polls showing Mr. Jospin

would lose to both Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur in the run-off, are tempted to vote for new Communist leader Robert Huer or veteran Trotskyist Arlette Laguiller, who sound more militant.

Urging the left to rally behind him on the first ballot, former Education Minister Jospin told about 8,000 supporters in Lyons in central France that France needed real changes and he was the only one able to provide them. Among his pledges are to cut the working week to 37 hours in 1997 from 39 now.

Mr. Balladur insisted Wednesday his economic policies for low-inflationary growth and a stable franc were the best recipe for the nation.

Speaking on French radio, Mr. Balladur said his policies since taking office two years ago had "succeeded" and were preferable to those offered by Mr. Chirac.

Mr. Balladur said Mr. Chirac's policies meant "more expenditure and thus more deficits."

"Everything he (Chirac) says is an accumulation of spending, subsidies and allocations in all directions, which will lead to an aggravation of deficits and can only

lead to disillusionment," Mr. Balladur charged.

The premier said the monetary crisis France experienced in the summer of 1993 resulted from "doubts" in the world community over Paris pursuing a policy of competitive disinflation.

On Tuesday, Mr. Balladur had lashed out at what he termed Mr. Chirac's "irresponsibility" in calling for wage hikes to bolster recovery, saying such a call risked "putting the brake on job creation."

On the issue of a single European currency, which the Maastricht Treaty on European Union foresees by 1997 or 1999 at the latest, Mr. Balladur said he would not risk harming growth to reach the debt and other convergence criteria to reach it.

Answering comments by former centre-right President Valery Giscard d'Estaing that introducing a single currency by 1997 was incompatible with a programme to curb joblessness running at 12 per cent, Mr. Balladur said he did not "see the necessity to install a job recovery" programme as jobs and economic activity were in his view already on the up.

Serbs tighten noose on Sarajevo

France gives U.N. 48 hours, warns of pullout

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations called in NATO jets to quiet a battle in the suburbs of the Bosnian capital that threatened to spiral out of control.

Two U.S. F-16s, already patrolling Bosnian airspace, buzzed the frontline separating government forces in Hrasnica and Bosnian Serbs in Ilidza late Tuesday. Both are suburbs near the U.N.-controlled Sarajevo Airport.

"NATO air presence was called in as we weren't sure how this situation would develop," said Lt. Col. Gary Coward, chief U.N. military spokesman. "We were not entirely sure of the situation on the ground and didn't wish to see it deteriorating further."

"We believe air presence has an element of deterrence," he added.

Serbs and government forces exchanged fire in the area near Mount Igman, south of the airport and Sarajevo, throughout much of Tuesday, but fighting intensified at dusk.

After warning both sides to halt their firing, the United Nations requested a NATO show of force. Jets soon arrived and remained in the area for more than 90 minutes, except for a 15-minute refuelling period when the shelling briefly resumed.

Earlier Tuesday, Bosnian Serbs fired anti-aircraft guns at traffic moving through government-held suburbs and over Mount Igman, which they had shelled Monday night, using 120-mm mortars in violation of a heavy weapons ban around the capital. That prompted Bosnian government forces to return fire from their mountain-top positions, sparking the skirmish that

escalated in the evening.

Butmir, a government suburb next to Hrasnica, was also shelled by Serbs Tuesday, U.N. officials said. Butmir houses the entrance to a tunnel under the airport runway, which the government constructed in summer 1993 to link the city centre with Igman and routes west to Croatia.

Bosnian police said three people were wounded in the Butmir shelling.

A U.N. plane en route to Sarajevo was also forced to turn back Tuesday afternoon after Bosnian Serbs noted it was carrying civilians and "warned U.N. staff that they could not guarantee the safety of the plane," Col. Coward said.

The Dnyushin-76 was the first U.N. flight to carry civilians since Sarajevo Airport closed on April 8 after gunfire hit an American-owned U.N. cargo plane. A limited number of U.N. troop rotations and military resupply flights landed over the weekend and Monday.

Referring to the effective airport closure and attacks on Igman, Col. Coward said: "It's a possibility that what we are seeing is part of an orchestrated campaign... to squeeze the city."

The U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, planned to meet Wednesday with Serb military leaders in Pale, east of Sarajevo.

On Tuesday, Gen. Smith briefed Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. special envoy in former Yugoslavia, on the deteriorating situation in Bosnia.

"If these incidents continue, I am afraid that contributing countries will have to review whether they should

continue to participate in UNPROFOR," Mr. Akashi later told reporters.

Stung by the recent deaths of two of its peacekeepers, France threatened Tuesday to withdraw its troops — the largest contingent in the U.N. force — unless new security measures are taken.

The United Nations has become increasingly vulnerable as both sides gear up for renewed war in the absence of a political solution. A nationwide truce, already in tatters, formally expires on May 1.

An estimated 200,000 people are believed killed or missing since war began in April 1992 with a nationalist Serb rebellion over Bosnia's secession from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

France Wednesday gave the United Nations 48 hours to improve the security of its peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and said divisions among the major powers were prolonging the conflict.

"I hope the United Nations will act within the next 48 hours. We cannot wait indefinitely," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said.

Otherwise, Paris would consider withdrawing its soldiers from the U.N. force, he added.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the stubbornness of the warring parties was the main reason for deadlock in the search for peace but differences between Moscow and Washington were also to blame.

"If we all had the same desire to reach a solution, we would succeed but hte Russians encourage Belgrade to ask too much while the United States fails to show the necessary determination to encourage Sarajevo to agree

to end hostilities," Mr. Juppe told France Inter radio.

"This is the reason why France has said (to the international community) that now we must wake up" to the situation in Bosnia, he said.

A resolution drafted by France for action by the U.N. Security Council would have the secretary-general propose ways to protect its peacekeepers more effectively and enable them to fulfil their mission.

It would call on rival Muslims, Serbs and Croats to extend a ceasefire due to expire at the end of the month and urgently resume peace negotiations.

Should the U.N. fail to act in time, "the problem is raised of the withdrawal of our soldiers from Bosnia," Mr. Balladur said in an interview with French radio RFI.

France's 4,500-strong contingent is the largest in Bosnia.

Meanwhile mine blasts injured three British U.N. peacekeeping soldiers Wednesday, one seriously, when their patrol in the eastern Bosnia enclave of Gorazde wandered into a mine field, a U.N. spokesman said.

Col. Coward said that one man "stepped on a mine. When two others went to assist him, a second detonation was heard." Col. Coward said two of the men had leg injuries, the other sustained wounds to the upper body.

Col. Coward also said the men came under small-arms fire during the early-morning incident from Bosnian army forces, though he added that "the Bosnian (soldiers) may have mistaken them (for enemy troops)."

Russians retreat after taking Chechen stronghold

MOSCOW (R) — Russian troops have been forced to retreat from the Chechen village of Bamut, just one day after taking the rebel stronghold, because of heavy shelling from the surrounding hills, Interfax News Agency said Wednesday.

It quoted Colonel-General Mikhail Yegorov, acting commander of Moscow's operations in the breakaway region, as saying the Russian troops had forced out rebel fighters Tuesday but had later come under fire from hills which they had failed to take.

"Russian troops were later forced to leave the village to avoid casualties," Gen. Yegorov, who is temporarily standing in for Colonel-General Anatoly Kulikov as head of the joint army and

Interior Ministry operation, told Interfax.

The retreat appeared to deal a blow to Russian efforts to completely control all of the fertile and industrially developed areas of northern and central Chechnya.

Gen. Kulikov, who is briefly resting in Moscow, told a news conference earlier Wednesday that the Russian troops had forced the last rebel fighters out of Bamut in western Chechnya.

Bamut is the last important rebel stronghold on Chechnya's lowland. Most of the rebels, fighting for the southern Russian region's independence from Moscow, are now in mountains in southern Chechnya.

Gen. Kulikov declared most of Russia's aims had

now been achieved since it sent troops to Chechnya on Dec. 11 to end the tiny north Caucasus region's three-year-old independence drive led by rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"Today, Dudayev has no social or economic grounds for continuing the armed struggle," Gen. Kulikov said.

"More than 80 per cent of Chechen territory, where more than 90 per cent of the population lives, has been freed from the illegal fighters."

Gen. Kulikov said 1,518 Russian servicemen had been killed and almost 5,000 wounded achieving those goals, and that Moscow estimated 9,000 to 9,500 Chechen fighters had been killed.

He did not say how many civilians had been killed, although Russia's Human Rights Commission has said more than 24,000 died in the battle for the Chechen capital, Grozny, alone.

Gen. Kulikov said 7,000 rebels were thought to be continuing the fight for independence and had set up about 40 mountain bases.

He mentioned the success in Bamut, which is near the border with the Ingushetia region in southern Russia, almost in passing and without fanfare.

The Chechen venture, originally expected to last only hours, has badly tarnished President Boris Yeltsin's democratic record and has damaged relations with foreign governments.

Russia wants U.N. to help police Tajik borders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia wants the United Nations to help the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) police the border between the Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Wednesday.

The border, on the southern edge of the former Soviet Union is currently patrolled by Russian-led Border Guards. A CIS peacekeeping force also operates in the former Soviet republic, where dozens of people have been killed in fighting this month.

"We would like the United Nations to share our burden (in Tajikistan)," Mr. Kozyrev told other CIS foreign ministers at a Moscow meeting. "We would like to see the world community more actively — that is more practically — involved in operations."

Mr. Kozyrev said the CIS was asking the U.N. to consider the possibility of setting up wide-scale operations on the Tajik-Afghan border. The U.N. should broaden the political and diplomatic role it already plays in Tajikistan, he said.

Mr. Kozyrev has already said Russia and other CIS states would use the most decisive means possible to end bloodshed in Tajikistan.

But he said Russia favoured a political and democratic solution to the problems in Tajikistan, where the Dushanbe government is at odds with Islamic rebels and members of the opposition based in the eastern district of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Defence ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States have appointed a new officer to command peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, Interfax News Agency said Wednesday.

Russian military officials said earlier this week that the current commander, Valery Patrikeyev, was due to leave his job after more than 12 months in Tajikistan. Interfax said he would be replaced by Lieutenant-Georgel Valentin Bobryshev.

Tajik government officials and rebel leaders met in Moscow Wednesday, but the discussions are due to centre on when and where to hold a new round of peace talks rather than on what action can be taken to bring the two sides closer together.

Sri Lanka peace process collapses

COLOMBO (AFP) — The truce aimed at ending Sri Lanka's protracted bloodletting shattered Wednesday as separatist Tamil guerrillas pulled out of peace talks and attacked two navy gunboats, officials said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga reacted to the pre-dawn strike against the navy, which left 16 people dead, by reimposing an economic embargo on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

She also said security forces across the country had been placed on maximum alert. An army spokesman confirmed that troops had been given shoot-to-kill orders to defend their camps following the collapse of the peace process.

"The decision of the LTTE to terminate the cessation of hostilities is in total disregard of the aspirations of the Sri Lankan people," the president said in a four-page statement.

"All those who act against

the people would, no doubt, be considered enemies of the people," it added.

Tamil frogmen blew up the Chinese-built naval gunboats by planting explosives beneath the two vessels, berthed at Trincomalee Harbour in northeastern Sri Lanka, officials said.

The attack left 12 sailors and four LTTE cadres dead, while 23 sailors were also wounded, officials said.

The LTTE had earlier warned of "serious consequences" and told the government that they were pulling out of talks with effect from midnight Tuesday.

The message was also broadcast over the LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, just hours before the attack.

The LTTE radio quoted Tiger supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran as saying they were pulling out of talks because the government had failed to agree to all four of their key demands.

The government made two

concessions last week on fishing restrictions and fuel supply to LTTE-held areas, but had declined Tiger demands for the dismantling of an army camp in the north and permission for its cadres to carry weapons into government-held areas in the island's east.

The truce with the Tigers began on Jan. 8, and was aimed at ending an ethnic conflict which has claimed over 30,000 lives since 1972.

In the statement, Mrs. Kumaratunga's office said the LTTE had resumed hostilities without giving the agreed 72 hours notice stipulated in the truce.

She reintroduced economic sanctions against LTTE-held territory in the island's north and withdrew the concessions already granted.

"In view of the unilateral decision taken by the LTTE to terminate the cessation of hostilities agreement and to start hostilities, the government is compelled to reconsider some of its decisions."

Displaced Rwandans ordered home despite killings

KIGALI (R) — Relief agencies scrambled Wednesday to help some 100,000 displaced people ordered by Rwandan troops to abandon a camp in the southwest and go home.

But as the operation began, a U.N. spokesman in the capital Kigali said government troops last Friday slaughtered 16 civilian men in the southwest in retaliation for an attack.

News of the killings appeared certain to increase fears among the 300,000 displaced men, women and children in camps in the southwest which Rwanda's government says must be closed.

U.N. spokesman Ismail Diallo said the 16 were shot and killed and one was wounded on the banks of the Rubiro River in the southwest after unidentified gunmen attacked Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) troops, killing one and wounding one.

He said 20 RPA soldiers later rounded up 17 local men, all civilians, and took them to the banks of the Rubiro River, 22 kilometres southeast of the border town of Cyangugu, and gunned them down.

Sixteen were killed. One who was wounded pretended to be dead and later reached Mashesha Hospital, where he was treated.

"The United Nations is in touch with the army and the government and views these killings with great concern," said Mr. Diallo, adding the bodies were left on the river bank by troops.

The government has said some members of the Hutu majority have been killed in

isolated incidents by troops in revenge for the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates last year.

But it has repeatedly assured innocent Hutu refugees and displaced people that it is safe to return to their homes.

To ensure they left, RPA troops, cordoned off Kibeho camp in the southwest Tuesday and fired into the air, triggering a stampede by tens of thousands of displaced Hutus.

At least eight residents were crushed to death.

The men, women and children crowded in panic onto a central hill in the camp, abandoning their huts on four other hills.

Soldiers told them they had a few days to leave Kibeho and go home as part of the drive to close all such camps, which the government sees as strongholds for Hutu militia-men a year after the genocide.

Kibeho, with some 120,000 residents, remained cordoned off by troops late Tuesday and no movement was allowed in or out.

The Hutus, who fear attack in revenge for the genocide, include former militiamen and troops involved in the slaughter.

The action by the Tutsi-dominated army caught aid agencies by surprise but they said they could only help camp residents leave because the government had sovereignty over camps in its territory.

U.N. officials said trucks, including more than 20 from the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda, would be sent to

Kibeho Wednesday to ferry out those who said they wanted to go home.

U.N. envoy Shaharyar said food, water and medical help would be provided by aid workers said the task would be very difficult as long as people stayed packed onto the one hill.

Mr. Khan said that when Rwanda Patriotic Army Chief of Staff Colonel Sam Kaka addressed Kibeho residents Tuesday, a large majority raised their hands when asked if they wanted to go home.

Minister of Rehabilitation and Social Integration Jacques Bihazagara said Tuesday everyone in Kibeho had to leave and the government was working with the U.N. to clear the camps.

Mr. Bihazagara said the guilty would be arrested but the 80 per cent of innocent camp residents had nothing to fear.

Meanwhile Burundi's president has appealed for urgent food aid for more than 400,000 refugees and displaced people, warning shortages may endanger a drive for peace.

Speaking on state-run radio Tuesday night, President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya urged international aid agencies to send food supplies urgently to the small Central African state.

"In addition to the almost total lack of resources (in Burundi), we now have the serious problem of the exhaustion of available food stocks," the president said.

He said shortages of food for refugees and displaced

people might create new tensions and endanger a plan by the government to end an 18-month-old political crisis and ethnic violence.

"It is urgent these disaster victims are supported... so preparations for their return and resettlement can continue in peace and security," said the president, a member of the Hutu majority.

"The government of the republic of Burundi and I launch an urgent appeal to all friendly countries, international organisations, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and to all people of goodwill to send their contributions..."

"The most urgent issue is to provide food security," he said.

Baodits and villagers late last month looted several U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) trucks taking food aid to camps in the northeast for the 200,000 Rwandan refugees in Burundi.

Burundian troops are now escorting WFP food convoys.

The U.N. food agency is currently feeding 400,000 internally displaced Burundians and the 200,000 Rwandan refugees but plans from July to end supplies to 100,000 displaced by giving them seeds and food packages to encourage them to return to farms.

In January, WFP was providing rations to 508,000 displaced.

The displaced fled during the slaughter of up to 100,000 people following the killing of President Melchior Ndayize, the first freely-elected Hutu head of state, in 1993 Tutsi troops.

Austrian vice chancellor to quit government

VIENNA (r) — Austrian Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek announced Wednesday he was quitting the government, a day after the conservative People's Party ditched him as leader.

Mr. Busek, 54, said he was stepping down after four years as vice chancellor in the ruling coalition of conservatives and Social Democrats.

He said he was also relinquishing his post as education minister.

People's Party (OEPF) chiefs Tuesday ended months of debate by naming Economics Minister Wolfgang Schuessel as sole candidate in a leadership election at a party conference Saturday.

Mr. Busek withdrew his can-

didacy for re-election.

"I am of course ready to withdraw from the government," Mr. Busek told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

"I thought that I should give the new party leader a free rein," he said he would give up his duties once Schuessel had been elected at the party conference on April 22.

Scientists who worked on U.S. nuclear bomb thought Germany was the target

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many scientists who worked on the first atomic bomb wanted it used on Nazi Germany, but U.S. military planners decided early that Japan would be the target, says a nuclear physicist who has researched the end of World War II.

And Arjun Makhijani said his research found the reason was not racial, as many have alleged, but had more to do with an arms race.

At a news conference Tuesday, Mr. Makhijani distributed a little-known memorandum on the subject from Brig. Gen. Leslie R. Groves, head of the Manhattan Project to create the atomic bomb. It was dated May 5, 1943.

The document expressed fear that if the bomb were dropped on Germany and failed to explode, the dud would help the Germans make their own weapon. Japanese research was not so

far advanced.

"What began as a race against a potential nuclear power, Germany, turned into a project to produce a tool of immense military superiority against a non-nuclear-weapon state," Mr. Makhijani said in a statement.

Mr. Makhijani, president of the private Institute for Energy and Environmental Research in Takoma Park, Maryland, told reporters: "The message is that non-nuclear weapons powers are right to ask the nuclear weapons powers to provide a guarantee against first use of nuclear weapons."

Some governments are demanding that guarantee at a meeting in New York on extending the treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The United States is pressing for an open-ended extension rather than the five-year increments since the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty took effect in 1970.

Mr. Makhijani, 50, was

born in Karachi — then part of India — in 1945, the year the bomb was dropped. He said he had found no evidence of racism in the choice of Japan as a target.

"As an Asian myself, it's not an issue I don't care about," he said. "I've had my eyes open."

Another lesson that Mr. Makhijani wants drawn is that scientists have a right and responsibility to know the intended use of weapons they're working on.

"There's a lot of nuclear designing going on right now," he said.

Some who worked on the first atomic bombs were surprised when Japan became the target, he said.

He cited Hans Bethe, head of the Theoretical Division at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the first bombs were produced and tested, and Glenn Seaborg, later chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

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The seeds of threat

THE NEW York conference on the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is bogged down on several fronts both procedural and substantive. It is still too early to prejudge the outcome of the meeting since there are considerable behind-the-scenes negotiations between the nuclear haves and have-nots that aim to bridge the gap between the two camps. The ongoing controversy about the extent of the renewal of the NPT may also see the Arabs divided among themselves. The fact that only the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are attending the conference indicates that substantial division within the Arab camp on how to respond to the five major nuclear powers' call for an indefinite extension of the treaty will emerge.

Inter-Arab disagreement, however, is not without a legitimate cause. On the one hand, the Arab World would like to see nothing more than a nuclear free zone regime in the Middle East and North Africa. On the other, the Arabs have all the reasons to fear Israel's continued nuclear hegemony over the Arab countries. There was a time when Israel professed never to be "the first to introduce" nuclear weapons to the region. That posture has developed recently to a pledge not to be "the first to use" such mass destruction weapons. This shift in position has come about after revelations that the Jewish state has more than 200 warheads in its arsenal.

The Israeli policy on the future of the NPT is further complicated by its insistence that it cannot commit itself to the treaty before a comprehensive peace is achieved in the region, including peace between Israel and Iraq and Iran. The trouble with this seemingly benign perspective lies squarely in the fact that the need for a comprehensive peace cuts both ways. The Arabs also need the assurance of a full and complete peace before they can feel safe and secure from the threat of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Israel goes even further by questioning the good faith of some regional powers, such as Iran and Iraq, even if they signed the treaty. This means that even if there were a comprehensive peace in the region, Israel would still feel free to stay out of the treaty on the premise that neither Baghdad nor Tehran signatures can be taken at face value.

In this context, Israel needs to see this issue both ways. The Arab side also has all the justifications to doubt the intentions of Israel even if it gets around to signing the treaty. The Israeli Dimona reactor was discovered in 1961 by U.S. monitors. Only a decade ago the world was able to establish as a fact that there are more than 200 nuclear warheads in Israel when an Israeli technician told the London Sunday Times about them. This Israeli ambivalence can only encourage certain Arab or Muslim countries to opt to go nuclear at one stage or another. Meanwhile, the pledge of the five big powers to come to the rescue of any country that is threatened by a nuclear force is meaningless. The Israeli threat is already there and the Arabs will not feel safe unless that threat is removed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JUDGING FROM its continued repressive policies in the occupied Arab lands and its latest offer to the Palestinians to set up a state only in Gaza, it is obvious that Israel is not interested in a lasting peace with its neighbours, said Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Wednesday. Not only did Israel fail to live up to its pledges contained in the declaration of principles with the Palestinians, which provide for a redeployment of troops and arranging for Palestinian elections, but it has now offered to recognise a Palestinian state in Gaza alone, thus going back on its commitments and demonstrating its determination to perpetuate its occupation of the rest of Palestine, said the writer.

DESPITE REPEATED calls on the Labour Ministry to control the Jordanian labour market and open the door for local workers to find jobs, the flow of guest workers into Jordan is continuing, said Mohammad Daoud, a writer in Al-Dustour. The government seems not concerned with curtailing the number of non-Jordanian workers, and the employers seem quite happy with this situation as long as the guest workers provide cheap labour and ensure for the businesses a larger margin of profit, he said. Demanding that the Labour Ministry stop issuing work permits to non-Jordanians, the writer said it is illogical to see 120,000 guest workers filling jobs which could be taken by Jordanians. What the Labour Ministry can do, he said, is adopt a final decision banning foreign workers from entering the country, and terminating the presence of non-Jordanians once their work permits expire.

View from Academia

The opposition in Israel: delirious but dangerous

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdouneh

THE POSITION of the various Israeli rejectionist and opposition groups, including not only members of the fanatical religious sects and settlements but also extreme political hardliners such as the Likud Party itself, is not helping much during this particularly critical and difficult stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially with respect to Palestinian-Israeli peace. Through their unrelentingly disruptive and obstructive tactics in the Knesset, their outrageous public declarations, their frequent irresponsible deeds and acts of aggression and (not least regrettably) their remarkably selfish, subversive and racist attitudes, the said groups currently pose a real obstacle, if not a serious threat, to peace with the Palestinians (and with other Arab countries with which peace agreements have not yet been concluded).

Take, for example, the statements we heard a few days ago, some of which were reiterated by members of Yitzhak Rabin's own party: that "talks with Palestinians ought to be suspended until acts of violence and terror come to an end," that such acts "have increased because of the peace deal with the Palestinians," that the Israeli "army ought to be redeployed into Gaza and Jericho," and so forth.

At one level, such statements are not to be taken seriously. For one thing, they are too simple-minded, too ridiculous and too non-sensical to be swallowed by any (Arabs or Israelis) except those who make them. Who, in his/her right mind, would believe that suspension of talks with Palestinians and redeployment of Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho would bring about stability and peace of mind to the Palestinians and Israelis? The Israeli army was there not long ago and peace talks were non-existent not long ago, and there was violence and terror. Who, in his/her right mind, would buy into the perverse logic that the peace deal has brought about and escalated violence? Isn't continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories itself the real cause? Aren't Israel's oppressive measures against Palestinians and Israel's procrastination and disregard of the promises and commitments it made to Palestinians in Oslo, Washington and Cairo the real cause?

For another, such statements are perhaps mere rhetoric and sheer political manoeuvring which amount to little outside the context of political rivalry among the various parties in Israel. Party leaders and parliament members flex muscles on podium and deliver thundering jeremiads on pulpits in order to inhibit their competitors and impress their constituencies and spectators. This is their game; this is their show — especially when one is talking about the opposition. The Israeli opposition groups, one may say, are attempting to make a buck in the world like everybody else. When the majority in Israel seems to have chosen peace, what can the opposition do but flex and thunder? There is, undoubtedly, a great deal of raving and delirium in the political rhetoric and discourse of the opposition in Israel, stemming from a feeling of impotence and desperation. This is always the case of people who swim against the current and attempt to reverse the irreversible wheel of history.

But, and at another level, there is more to the matter than pure nonsense, sheer rhetoric and mere manoeuvres. What the Israeli opposition is saying these days cannot be

easily and conveniently dismissed as harmless or irrelevant, for it is in fact dangerous. People who make statements such as those cited above are not senile old men or women chatting at leisure over dinner in a home of the elderly, nor are they private citizens caught at a moment of anger in a casual conversation in the comfort of their own homes. No. They are representatives of the Israeli public (or chunks of it), experienced politicians who have been around for quite some time, fundamental players in Israel's political arena, leaders or potential leaders of Israel, and likely ministers or prime ministers. Have we forgotten Begin's, Shamir's and Sharon's "crazy" and "foolish" but disastrous and calamitous invasion of Lebanon in 1982? If given the chance, most leaders of the opposition in Israel would not hesitate one second to invade Gaza and Jericho and subject Palestinians to occupation and slavery, if not throw them into the sea or into neighbouring Arab countries. The point is that one is not talking about a remote possibility of danger, but a very likely one. What happens if the Likud wins the elections?

"At a time when the Israeli government seems to be pathetically too helpless and impotent to fulfill its part of the bargain, the Israeli public is called upon to assert itself. One is under the impression that a comfortable majority of Israelis want peace, want to live and let live. If this is the case, it is time for them to act. Not one single Arab country now objects to peace, and a vast majority of Arabs and Palestinians are for it."

But why talk about what may happen if the Likud takes over when a great deal is already happening? The fanatics, radicals, extremists and hardliners in Israel have succeeded to a great extent not only in slowing down the peace process but in stopping it entirely, especially on the so-called Palestinian-Israeli track which does not seem to be moving in any confident direction.

With respect to the said track, they have (in addition to bringing the process to an almost complete halt) done two things (among the many other obvious things) which are especially worrying.

They have succeeded in polluting and contaminating the whole atmosphere among Palestinians and Israelis, an atmosphere which is supposed to have become a lot cleaner and healthier after Oslo and Washington. The Gaza-Jericho First was not the best agreement one could have come up with, but it was a start — a "first" step. It was a start and a step towards ending decades of suspicion, mistrust and hostility. Aside from its other goals, it had a

crucial psychological dimension: It aimed to break barriers and shatter negative images, misconceptions and stereotypes. But this has not happened, except to a very humble extent. The agreement was supposed to prepare the two peoples psychologically for the great peace to follow. Unfortunately, however, the suspicion, misconception, stereotyping and hostility are still as deeply entrenched in souls and psyches as they have ever been.

The said Israeli groups are to blame because they have been, and still are, (through the statements they make and the positions they take) promoting suspicion and fear. Look at the meetings between Rabin, Peres and other Israeli officials with Palestinian Authority members: they are very lukewarm, very cold, very fake, very artificial and even very ominous. The opposition has a lot to do with it, through the heavy-handed approach they wish the government to adopt towards Gaza and Jericho. How can you be warm and enthusiastic and friendly when others at home, who still see the Palestinian as an enemy and peace as an impossibility, are watching every gesture and move you make?

They have succeeded in inhibiting the Israeli government and crippling its performance on the Palestinian front. Several important steps and decisions need to be taken by the Israeli government to facilitate the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First. But this is not happening. Rabin and Peres, who have taken some courageous decisions before, are now chickening out.

This is, of course, in nobody's interest. The Palestinians have a lot to lose from what seems now exactly like the no-peace no-war situation from which every nation in the Middle East suffered for years. But Israel also has a lot to lose. The Israeli opposition does not care one bit about Palestinian well-being, but what about the well-being of Israel? The point the opposition does not seem to understand is that by ruining the chances of Palestinian-Israeli peace, they are also ruining Israel's own chances. What kind of Israel do they want? What kind of life do they want for the Israeli public? Do they want to take Israel back to the prison of isolation it has locked itself in for years through refusing to recognise Arab and Palestinian rights? Do they think Israel can live happily and joyfully without a good working relationship with its neighbours and without allowing the Palestinians what it allows itself. The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

At a time when the Israeli government seems to be pathetically too helpless and impotent to fulfill its part of the bargain, the Israeli public is called upon to assert itself. One is under the impression that a comfortable majority of Israelis want peace, want to live and let live. If this is the case, it is time for them to act. Not one single Arab country now objects to peace, and a vast majority of Arabs and Palestinians are for it. Is indeed a comfortable majority of Israelis all for peace? We have been assuming this. But what a scary thought it is to find that one is dead wrong in this assumption.

Well, do you Israelis want or do you not want peace with the Palestinians? If yes, something should be done, through the political system you are so proud of, about the fanatics, extremists, hardliners who seem to be thriving among you.

U.S.-British campaign against Iraq includes suppression of facts

'Resolution 986 allowing Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil places Iraq's major natural resources under U.N. management'

By Michael Jansen

NICOSIA — Iraq no longer expects an early lifting of sanctions imposed by the U.N. in 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait. An "inflammatory" Iraqi source said that Baghdad now saw "no possibility of movement on sanctions before the U.S. elections" in November 1996.

Baghdad had been hopeful that a date would be set in May, during the council's routine review, for an end to sanctions and to the ban on oil exports once Rolf Ekeus, head of the commission disarming Iraq, presented his report covering the first six months of U.N. monitoring procedures. The Iraqi ambassador to the U.N., Nizar Hamdoun, claimed that "90 per cent of the information" demanded by the commission, had been provided. Thus, Iraqi officials had hoped that Baghdad would be given a "clean bill of health" by Mr. Ekeus.

But this did not happen. Mr. Ekeus privately circulated his report in the council late on April 10. Certain sections of that report were leaked to Western news agencies and correspondents. According to their reports Mr. Ekeus stated that Iraq had still not accounted for 17 tonnes to a "complex growth" medium used for growing bacteria and viruses.

Iraq did not contest the figures but contended that the missing medium had been used for "agricultural and pharmaceutical purposes" not for the development of a germ warfare capability.

What was not leaked to the press, apparently, or at least not reported by most Western media, was the fact that the Ekeus report makes it clear that at least part of the missing medium in question had an "expiry date" and can no longer be an effective substance for cultivating bacterial cultures. This key fact was provided by the head of the Iraqi interest section in London Zuhair Ibrahim, in an interview with the BBC World Service on April 15th. He presumably, had access to the full text of the privately circulated report.

An Arab scientist consulted by this reporter said that such material would be less effective if past the

"expiry date" but could be used. He said, however, that anyone determined to produce biological weapons "does not need this material because such weapons are the easiest of all to produce; all you need is some very common culture mediums, such as milk plus sugar and acid or yeast extract... A crude anthrax bomb could be produced by any reasonably competent biochemist... There is no point in making a fuss over this material. Except to use it to block the lifting of sanctions."

The fact that the report was in effect secret and only certain portions leaked demonstrates clearly that the U.S. and Britain, who are leading the campaign in the council to maintain the punitive sanctions regime, are prepared to use any and all means to achieve their objective.

Furthermore the fact that Mr. Ekeus did not protest the selective leaks by providing the press with full coverage of his findings demonstrates that he is colluding with these powers. Indeed his collusion has been obvious for many months now in his public statements. While in Baghdad he normally states that he and his monitors are satisfied with the cooperation they are receiving from the Iraqi authorities. But back in New York, he inevitably complains that the Iraqis have not complied on one point or another.

About two months ago there was a U.S.-U.K. media campaign about Iraq concealing the redeployment of a germ warfare capability — and even of long-range missiles with which to deliver germ warheads. This campaign was timed to preempt the mid-March council review of the sanctions regime and to influence Mr. Ekeus' handling of his first six monthly report on the weapons

monitoring programme due in April. As a result of the campaign and, presumably, direct U.S.-U.K. pressure, Mr. Ekeus raised the issue of the missing 17 tonnes of bacterial and viral culture material.

During his latest visit to Iraq Mr. Ekeus did not run true to form. Although he stated that the U.N.'s intrusive monitoring procedures, put into operation six months ago, were working well, he also raised the issue of the missing material, giving it worldwide publicity and lending credence to the contention that Iraq was not fully cooperating with Mr. Ekeus' commission.

The Iraqis ask, reasonably, why did he not raise this issue earlier? Why did he wait until the moment when his key report was nearly due? Since he had had the documents relating to the purchase of this material many months earlier, Ambassador Ibrahim said that Iraq is now trying to track down the material so it can present its findings to the U.N. commission, thus clearing up the one problem apparently preventing Mr. Ekeus from giving Baghdad the long-sought "clean bill of health" so sanctions might be lifted.

This germ warfare loophole which the council has jumped in order further extend sanctions was of masterly manufacture and should be contrasted with another clumsy attempt to show the Iraqis have been violating the terms of Resolution 687 by secretly developing a nuclear weapons capacity.

Again this involved careful media management. "The Sunday Times of London (which also led with the germ warfare story in February), reported it had handed to the U.N. and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) four pages of official Iraqi docu-

ments allegedly showing that Iraq was conducting a new computer-based programme for producing nuclear arms. These documents were said to have been provided by a defecting Iraqi nuclear scientist, Dr. K. A.A. Hamza, who allegedly vanished in Athens on February 27 after sending the documents to the newspaper.

It is interesting that, according to Dr. David Kyd, spokesman of the IAEA, the Sunday Times did not hand them over to the agency until a "week" or so before the paper ran the story. Then, before the agency could comment, ran the story on April 9, the day before Mr. Ekeus was due to present his monitoring report to the council.

Asked three days after "the Sunday Times" publication of the "Hamza allegations" if the agency had any evidence that Iraq is still developing nuclear weapons, Dr. Kyd said: "No, we certainly do not have such evidence, but of course it is incumbent on us to follow up anything gives a hint that that might be the case."

Of the IAEA's capabilities, he asserted that the IAEA had "a permanent presence in Iraq in terms of an inspection ability which is very, very intrusive... we have quite exceptional powers in Iraq which are not given to us in normal circumstances."

Dr. Kyd stated that the agency had received copies of the documents and had "taken a look at them. But they are a rather insubstantial basis on which to try to pursue an investigation" although the agency found itself "to a degree" more concerned that Iraq could be engaged in a covert programme.

"We have certainly taken up (the allegations with the Iraqis) at a very high level indeed." The IAEA's own

report to the council, he said, would await Iraq's reaction and on-the-spot investigations.

Following Dr. Kyd's statements, the IAEA official in charge of the monitoring team in Iraq, Dr. R. Ziffer, said that after careful investigation the agency had concluded that the documents had been "forged." And not very cleverly because the forgers had misspelled place names in Iraq and did not seem to know very much about how to build a bomb. This would suggest that the forgers would seem to be Westerners rather than members of the Iraqi opposition who would not, one would hope, misspell place names in their own country.

These two tactical moves in the campaign to preserve sanctions were meant to secure the renewal of sanctions and compel Iraq to accept the Security Council resolution, proposed by Argentina, at the instigation of the U.S. and U.K., which would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil within 180 days (or \$1 billion within 90 days), in order to purchase desperately needed medical supplies and food for the Iraqi populace suffering severe deprivation under the stringent sanctions regime.

Although the arrangement would be renewable every 90 days, if approved by the Secretary General (who has followed the U.S. line on Iraq), Iraq would have to set aside 30 per cent of the proceeds to put into a war reparations fund pay the costs of U.N. operations in Iraq and set aside about \$150 million for the 2.2 million Kurds in the Western protected "safe haven" in the north. The remainder, about \$500 million would be used by the U.N. to purchase food and medical supplies for the 16 million Iraqi civilians in the rest of the country. Before

the Gulf war that sum was spent annually on medical supplies alone.

Although the U.N. claimed that the resolution eased the monitoring of the distribution of the goods purchased abroad and provided more money to Iraq than the previous (1991) offer of a one-time sale of \$1.6 billion, the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, the speaker of the Iraqi parliament and the cabinet all claimed that the latest resolution was a "violation of Iraq sovereignty" and turned it down.

It certainly was a "violation of sovereignty," in spite of Secretary General Boutros Ghali's contention that it respected Iraq's sovereignty. This is because the sale of the oil, to be exported through the Turkish pipeline from Kirkuk to Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean coast (for which Iraq would also have a pay a heavy tariff), and the proceeds would still be managed by the U.N. as under the 1991 plan. This would, in effect, place Iraq's major natural resource under U.N. management, a possibility Baghdad could not be expected to accept.

Dr. Ghali's contention that this resolution was "the first step" in the lifting of sanctions was disputed by both U.S. and Argentinian spokesmen. The U.S.-U.K. camp never in fact believed Iraq would accept this deal, but by offering it the two powers attempted to shift from the council to the Iraqi government the burden of responsibility for the suffering inflicted on ordinary Iraqis. It is not clear that Paris, Moscow, Beijing and the majority of the council's non-permanent members who voted for the resolution but basically oppose further sanctions, will remain convinced that this has indeed happened.

The U.S. strategic objective remains the continuation of sanctions. By raising these accusations about possible Iraqi violations of Resolution 687 and placing on offer this new "better" deal on oil exports, Washington wants to keep in line the opponents of sanctions when the council reconvenes the sanctions regime in mid-May. What is certain is that now resorting to more and more desperate measures — falsification and forgery — to keep the sanctions regime going.

Virtuality

By Jean-Claude Elias

Computer users take a malicious pleasure at impressing common mortals with their jargon. By doing so they may not be very different from doctors except that with the tremendous speed of change and new terms being added to the IT (information technology) vocabulary almost on a daily basis, they have a much wider scope to practise their game.

The concept of "virtuality" in the world of IT has been around for a while but it's recently taken a new, frightening meaning with the widespread usage of computer-generated images.

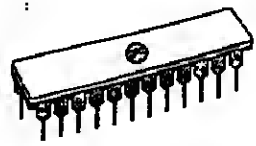
Saying that a PC (personal computer) uses virtual memory doesn't refer to any supernatural or magic device. It simply means that the machine doesn't have enough regular memory to accomplish a given task and instead is using extra available disk space for that purpose. A virtual disk is the opposite. Part of the regular memory is used to do the processing, instead of the physical disk. Nothing to worry about so far — virtuality is under control.

Computer generated art, still pictures and animated graphics more particularly have added a new dimension to the concept. Images that do not correspond anymore to anything real are invading networks, magazines, advertisements and so forth. Actual photographs are being touched up, modified and altered in such a drastic manner that they tell a story completely different from the original work. Graphic animation software exists that allows the creation of totally imaginary people, animals or objects, in full 3-dimensions. These can be animated with near perfection.

Some will argue that this is not new and that artists have always played tricks with images, motion pictures and photographs. Physical "cut and paste" has existed long before this facility was made available through computer software. After all animated cartoons are also virtual images that have been around for a few decades now.

The difference is that computer produced virtuality

chip talk



looks very much "real." It can deceive the most experienced eyes. The perfection of the shapes, the volumes, the colours, the light, the shadows and before all the movement, have nothing to do with Mickey Mouse or Bugs Bunny. When they produce films like The Jungle Book or The Little Mermaid, Walt Disney studios do not want nor expect the viewer to take the cartoons for reality. Computer animated or manipulated graphics however are so dangerously true that their originators may have undeclared intentions.

Last year, by pure coincidence, two famous American weekly magazines published, simultaneously, an issue with the same cover: A photograph of football star O.J. Simpson distributed to them by a third party. One of the magazines however decided to modify the photo in a way to make Simpson's face "blacker." The trick was done using a computer process. Only the comparison between both covers made readers realise that one of them had been touched up — causing an obvious embarrassment to the guilty magazine.

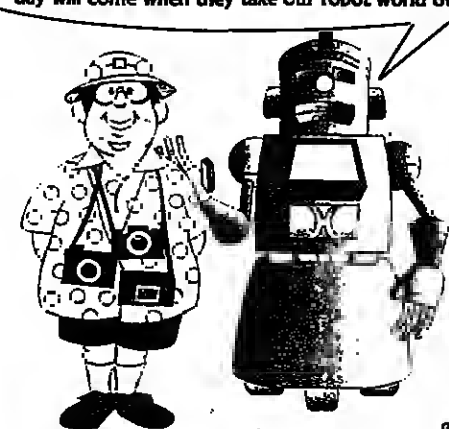
An interesting essay by Rod Usher (Time, March 27, 95) tackled the worrisome subject of virtual pornography. With the help of a PC, an image scanner and a painting software, a pedophile had used a combination of legally published photographs to fabricate virtual, but incredibly "real-looking" images of children that he transmitted over the telephone lines to other computers. No legal action could be taken against him since the images he obtained did not correspond to any real situation nor living children. There are no laws to cover such cases yet.

Usher adds that computer-generated villainess is even more horrible than the actual thing for "there can never be a real cry, a real tear" in it.

The French Cultural Centre in Amman last year hosted a lecture on "Virtual Images." Viewers were treated to a short promotional film by Renault, the car-maker, showing a new model driving on a pleasant country road. Hadn't the lecturer revealed that the film was entirely virtual and computer-produced, everybody, including the writer of this column who attended the lecture, would have taken the car, the road and the scenery for reality.

Publishers are becoming very cautious with the graphic material they have to handle. A new attitude, a new approach is required but has not yet been defined. Lawmakers have some arduous homework to do.

These homo sapiens are almost perfect now. One day will come when they take our robot world over.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

TANTALIZING FACTS

- ★ It is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus was ever sick.
- ★ Fish has the same number of scales during their entire lifetime.
- ★ The first appendectomy was performed in 1736.
- ★ German silver does not contain any silver at all.
- ★ The eyes of an elephant are only slightly larger than the eyes of a man.
- ★ The common house fly does not breed in Alaska.
- ★ All snake eggs are white or cream coloured.
- ★ In 1800, only about 7 per cent of the United States population were church members.
- ★ Pigs were used in ancient Egypt to tread seeds into the ground and thresh grain.
- ★ The average life of a spider is only one year.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- He has no money. Laysa ma'aho fuloos.
- I had 10 dinars only. Ma'e ashrato dananeer faqat.
- I've not enough time to see you. Laysa lahi waqtan kafe'yan le-arak.
- All this is for you. Kollo hatha min ajlek.
- One and two are three. Wahid wa ethnasin yusawi thalatha.
- We want oranges for one dinar and a half. Noreed burtuqalan bedinar wa nisf.
- She had a small house and a big garden. Tamlik manzilat saghiran wa hadeeqatan kabirah.
- The book you search for is in the drawer. Al-kitab allathi tab'hatho anhu fid-darf.
- I want a ticket for Egypt. Oreedo tath'karatan ela Misr.
- She was here with me yesterday. Kanat ma'e hons bil-ams.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TV JOKES

- ★ HE: "Is this show clean?"
- ★ SHE: "Sure. It's a soap opera."
- ★ That TV star is so rich. He's got four Mercedes — on each direction!
- ★ It's a quiz show — only in reverse: If you answer the question — you're a certified doper!
- ★ That TV show had a happy ending. Everything was glad when it was over.
- ★ There's one thing you can say about some crime shows: It's a crime they stay on the air!

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the "key of the Mediterranean?"

2. What is a horologer?
3. What is pin-money?
4. What are gewgaws?
5. What is capital punishment?
6. What is a Sirdar?
7. What is Reichstag?
8. What does "asclepius" stand for?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



PICTURE & COMMENT

Kevin Carter, 34, a South African photographer won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for this picture which he took while touring Sudan. The picture shows a Sudanese child facing inevitable death due to starvation. A vulture in the background could be seen prepared to swoop down this poor little creature!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

HEADS ALIKE

Although the "heads" of these mammals are the same on paper it doesn't necessarily follow that they are alike. Very much the reverse, in fact. Can you fill in the missing letters and reveal them in their entirety?

The missing letters are indicated by dots.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. COY.. | COY.. |
| 2. JACK.. | JACK.. |
| 3. KO... BEAR | KO... BEAR |
| 4. MAN.... | MAN.... |
| 5. MON.... | MON.... |
| 6. PAN.... | PAN.... |
| 7. POR..... | POR..... |
| 8. WAL.... | WAL.... |

New club extraordinaire

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Forget the Royal Automobile Club, forget the Orthodox Club, forget all other clubs in Amman. Today, this column brings you the exclusive premier of the unveiling of Amman's latest inclusive club.

With an eye on making all car drivers automatic members of this club, it was named the Left Lane Drivers' Club. A typical member of this club is the sort of driver that both you and I come across everyday. You probably know the sort of driver I'm talking about. The sort who, when on the road, drives in the left lane and just stays there while driving at a speed far more appropriate for the right-hand lane of the road.

All this of course means that we, drivers and all, are not fully aware, if not totally ignorant to the fact, that in this country the left lane is reserved for fast moving traffic while all other lanes are for slower moving traffic.

But, and so typical of us, we have over the years made up our own rules as far as driving on the left side of a road is concerned. Hence the Left Lane Drivers' Club. But again, if you look harder at this situation, you discover, as was rightly pointed out to me, that a great number of drivers choose to sit on the fence and drive in the middle until, either willingly or unwillingly, they make or are forced to make a decision.

One of the funnier sides to this where-to-drive

dilemma is that these slow moving drivers on the left appear, at most times, convinced that they have the right to drive where they are driving and at the speed at which they are driving. But because this presumed right to do things and to behave in certain ways manifests itself so openly when we drive be it where and how we drive or where and how we choose to park, an explanation is called for.

Beneath all this talk of priorities in driving lies the deeper issue of citizenship and that of the genuine love of others. In most cases, those at the higher end of the social scale think that they can park in the middle of a street because they happen to believe it is a given privilege that comes with their status. So they do it out of selfishness and total lack of respect for the needs of others. Meanwhile, those at the lower end of the social scale do it out of carelessness and ignorance.

It is also true that both parties do it out of need, their need. But what about the needs of other drivers? What about the needs of pedestrians when these drivers park on the pavements? Whatever happened to the utopian vision of community spirit and care for others?

What it all comes down to is that all of us can have our membership in the Left Lane Drivers' Club annulled when, and only when, we start behaving like the responsible citizens we aspire to be and to be treated as such.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 20

- 1:00 Dennis The Menace
- 1:30 My Secret Identity
- 2:00 N.B.A.
- 3:00 Survival
- 3:50 Blue Heelers
- 4:30 French Programme
- 7:30 The Album Show
- 8:00 Blue Revolution
- 9:15 E.N.G.
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Feature Film — The Good Fight
- 12:00 The Burning Shores

Friday, April 21

- 1:00 Lift Of
- 1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?
- 2:00 A Year In The Life
- 2:45 Feature Film — Mob Boss
- 4:15 White Fang
- 4:45 French Programme
- 7:30 African Skies
- 8:00 Documentary — QED
- 8:30 You Bet Your Life
- 9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Documentary — Mini Dragons
- Hong Kong
- 11:30 Feature Film — The Golden Rod

Saturday, April 22

- 2:00 Dog City
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Witness To Survival
- 3:30 Road To Avonlea
- 4:00 Gillette World Sport
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 French Programme
- 7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 8:00 Documentary — Life In The Freezer
- 8:30 The Nanny
- 9:00 Documentary — Dive The World
- 9:15 Cape Rebel
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:20 Feature Film — Best Kept Secrets
- 12:00 Tanamera

Sunday, April 23

- 2:00 Animated Classics — Sinbad
- 3:00 Feature Film — The Biggest Battle
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 French Programme
- 7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 8:00 Masterpieces Of Literature
- 8:30 Almost Home

9:10 The Other Side Of Paradise

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — For Love Alone

Starring: Helen Buday & Sam Neill

12:00 The Hidden Room

12:30 Grace And Favour

Monday, April 24

2:00 Madeline

2:30 Munster's Today

3:00 Hard Time On Planet Earth

3:50 Pals

4:15 The Language Of Animals

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — Voyager

8:30 Laurie Hill

9:10 The Contender

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

10:20 Feature Film — Lethal Exposure

Starring: Ally Sheedy & Francois Gaudron

Tuesday, April 25

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Wednesday, April 26

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Dandelion Dead

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Gulf War as seen from down under

The Gulf War: Critical Perspectives
 Edited by Michael McKinley
 Published by Allen & Unwin, pp. 209, \$24.95,
 Canberra, 1994

This book (produced by the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University, Canberra) is a compilation of articles which critically examine the 1991 Gulf War from an Australian perspective. Its contributors are experts in defence studies, political science, foreign affairs, international relations and strategic studies. The book is divided into an introduction and seven chapters.

In the first chapter *Washed In The Sands Of Grey: The Persian Gulf In Context*, David Campbell examines the setting of the conflict and the "multifarious" international/intercorporate relations between Iraq and the West. After presenting a brief history of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcation, he traces the solid American backing to Iraq. This he claims ensued after the secret visit to Baghdad by the then-CIA director, William Casey, when the U.S. effectively permitted third regional parties "to transfer American military and hardware to Iraq" (p. 11). According to Campbell, between 1985-90, nearly 800 American dual use technology export licences to Iraq worth \$1.5 billion were issued, and that between 1982-89, German corporations alone exported more than \$600 million worth of technology much of which is of "obvious military application" (p. 19). In a similar vein, the National Security Directive 26, signed by George Bush, helped maintain the momentum of intensive American bias towards Iraq despite "substantial concerns about the way Iraq had used previous credits and the ends they were serving." (p. 15)

While neither exculpating one party nor incriminating the other, Campbell also seeks to deconstruct the one-dimensional narrative of the official story of the war. Accordingly, with the caveat that the events preceding Aug. 2, 1990 neither "condone" or "justify" Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait, he attempts to "contextualise" the invasion (p. 26). But when commenting on a CIA released statement on Oct. 30, 1990 in response to the alleged meeting between the Kuwaiti director-general of state security and CIA director on Nov. 14, 1989, Campbell opines that "it is possible to interpret later events as suggesting the plausibility of a U.S.-inspired plan to provoke Iraq" (p. 30). Campbell is also critical of American diplomacy. While he concedes that his purpose is not to say that a diplomatic solution was possible, but rather "render problematic the conviction that it was impossible," he asks why the Americans did not earnestly support "those who in actuality assiduously explored non-military solutions prior to August 1990?" And why was the "conflict after August 1990 not one amenable to the virtues of negotiation and arbitration?" (pp. 32, 35).

In the second chapter *Quantum Leaping: The Gulf Debate In Australia And Canada*, Professor Kim Nossal highlights the national and cross-national debates in Australia and Canada with regard to the 1991 Gulf War, which he characterises as essentially

ethnocentric. Professor Nossal observes that in both countries history was deployed as the "critical part of policy debate" as parliamentarians used historical examples to advance their arguments. However, according to Professor Nossal, history was not merely a "rhetorical device to shore up postures," but rather a "deep-seated part of the decision-making process" (p. 50).

According to Professor Nossal, in both countries public discourse was similar. Australians and Canadians alike shouted the cross-Atlantic Gulf War slogans: (No Blood For Oil), (Hell no, we won't die for Texaco), and John Lennon's refrain (Give peace a chance), etc. As Professor Nossal shows, both prime ministers, Hawke and Mulroney, were popularly accused of joining the war "for a toadying desire to please George Bush." Moreover, he demonstrates that the press in both countries occasionally portrayed them as "lap dogs, puppy dogs, or presidential poodles" (p. 56). (Even a year later, as Professor Nossal points, Mulroney was once described by the Canadian Toronto Star in March 1992 as "a Yankee lackey grovelling at his master's feet." And during 1990 Bush's dog was once jokingly advised by Canadian journalists to run fast for fear that Mulroney would retrieve a frisbee thrown by the president first.) (pp. 55, 56).

In the third chapter *The Gulf War And Australian Political Culture*, Professor James Richardson examines the political culture which dictated that Australia should side with the United States without due national deliberations. According to Professor Richardson, this largely stems from Australia's national security sub-culture and its constant need of Western patrons. In this context Australia's headlong rush into participating in America's war is seen as an "abdication of independent judgement" and a "rueful triumph for golf course diplomacy," as opposed to a national choice consistent with clearly-set national characteristics and autonomous objectives. This conclusion is further supported by Australia's failure to consult with ASEAN governments, which in turn has "reinforced its image in the region (that Australia is) still essentially Western in its orientation, identifying with Europe and the U.S. not with regional concerns" (p. 81). Professor Richardson also coincides with Richard Falk's observation of the "continuing 'racist disposition' in Western political culture" which is "especially quick to associate the evil Other with non-white, non-Christian peoples" (p. 93).

In the fourth chapter *Economic Sanctions And Military Solutions: Australia, Middle Power Internationalism And The Costs Of Instant Gratifications*, Richard Leaver suggests that in the case of Iraq, economic sanctions could have produced more fruitful results. He also contends that the case for sanctions was badly "undersold" to the world and Western public opinion. However, he admits that due to the "private context within which allied strategy was hatched... popular backing for sanctions could never have halted the metamorphosis of Desert Shield into Desert Storm" (p. 99). According to Leaver, proponents of sanctions believed that hostilities could develop into an uncontrollable regional conflagration which may even "pit the Islamic and Judo-Christian traditions against each other

through the coming decades," and that a military conflict would bring a high number of Western casualties (p. 101). However, Leaver dismisses the first apocalyptic argument on the grounds that regardless of its "empirical validity," it "imposes a powerful kind of reductionist logic upon strategic thinking" (p. 102). Further he identifies four political objectives which could be accommodated under the "generous phraseology" of Resolution 678, and states that "by standing still, the case for sanctions was gradually outflanked by the development of the conflict and politically marginalised well before the shooting started" (p. 104).

In contending the testimony of the then Director of the CIA, William Webster, to the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives in December 1990, Leaver points that arguments for the case of war failed to "conceptualise how economic sanctions might feed into domestic and political process" (p. 105). Instead, he points that 98 per cent of Iraq's exports are oil and that the expected 50 per cent fall in Iraq's GDP is, contrary to Webster's analysis, likely to pose significant hardship for the Iraqi military, which in turn is "expected to catalyse a notable decline in military competence through the medium-term" (p. 107). Leaver also adds that there was little chance of obviating Iraq's external sensitivity by adopting economic diversification and contrasts the Iraqi case with Rhodesia. Given the fact that the prospect for sanctions-busting was poor, he carries on to argue that in the long-term, sanctions should exert "debilitating political effects," notwithstanding that "sanctions were unlikely to liberate Kuwait quickly" (p. 109).

In discussing the prospects for a new regional system, mainly through a bipolar one led by the U.S., with minimal flow of arms and weapons of mass destruction, Leaver argues that the application of economic sanctions would have accelerated the development of "techniques of mutual invigilation, and catalysed the will to self-restraint among suppliers" (p. 115). However, oblivious of Turkey's favourable position during and after the war, Leaver declares that the "absolute" winners in this bipolar security system are Israel and Iran, whose capabilities with comparison with the status quo ante were substantially enhanced (p. 116). But nevertheless, Leaver also dismisses George Bush's New World Order as nothing more than a phrase of tactical importance in the "game of wartime importance" (p. 117).

In the fifth chapter *The Gulf War And Australian Defence: Aberration Or "Defining Event"*, Graeme Cheeseman examines the domestic implications for Australia's decision to join the multinational alliance against Baghdad. When considering the "reasons for going over there," he states that the government's moral argument "was both overdrawn and hypocritical" (p. 132). But he also admits that faced with the uncertainties of the post-cold war era, Australia's military and strategic planners reached out to their Western security blanket, and that Australia remains "physically and psychologically" dependent on the United States.

In the sixth chapter *The Gulf War: Australia's Role And Asia-Pacific Responses*, Mohan Malik

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assesses the regional reactions to the war in general and the repercussions of Australia's enthusiastic participation in the war against Iraq. He observes "remarkable" similarities in the Indonesian and Malaysian initial reaction to the Gulf Crisis; both were critical of the U.S. China and India also initially did not look favourably on Australia's decision to join the war. According to Malik, even when Indonesia, Malaysia, India and China supported U.N. resolutions for "purely opportunistic and selfish reasons," they advocated restraint (p. 154). Malik observes that at all stages of the conflict there was no evidence of consultation between Australia and South Asia countries, though Japan was the only Asian country with which Australia had had serious consultations. But as Malik also shows, Australia was not completely isolated as it also received wholehearted support from regional powers like Sri Lanka, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan (p. 165).

As Malik notices, in many Asia-Pacific countries apprehension was expressed about Pax Americana in a unipolar world. Additionally, demands for the "democratisation" of the U.N. were made, mainly through buttressing the role of the General Assembly in the face of the Security Council which is now freed from the deadlock which characterised it during the cold war.

In the seventh chapter *The Bitterness Of Being Right: Reflections On Australian Alliance Orthodoxy, The Gulf War, And The New World Order*, Michael McKinley concludes the book by arguing that the Gulf War was an extension of cold war politics in a post-cold war era. This he claims resulted from the suddenness of the collapse of the Soviet empire, which left American strategic planners vacuous. McKinley also argues against Australia's alliance with the U.S. during the war and that, generally speaking, alliances are instruments of war-proneness. He also observes that the New World Order "reflects an essentially imperial vision," and that unless something serious is done to undo the many outstanding injustices the term New World Order "will be bankrupt, just as the 'same old days'" (p. 187).

McKinley also views it as "hypocrisy" the selective denunciation of Iraq, "while at the same time tolerating injustices in Israel, Syria and Turkey" (p. 193). However, he views the snubbing by U.S.-led military build-up of Arab diplomatic initiative to solve the conflict peacefully as an unnecessary "gratuitous insult." Further, he finds it "difficult to be convinced that... the Arab states were inferior diplomatically" (p. 194). McKinley, however, does not share the belief that the Gulf victory was great victory. Instead he sees it as a "victory" against an "isolated, demoralised, starving, badly led, shell-shocked, strategically bankrupt and tactically bereft rabble" (p. 196).

As is evident, this book offers a discourse on the tragic Gulf War, where issues are tackled in a true academic spirit. It also undoubtedly gives insights into internal and external implications of Australia's instantaneous decision to join the Western camp.

La'ayy Minwar Al Rimawi

A challenge to understand the faith

The Death Of The Messiah

By Raymond E. Brown
 Doubleday, New York

Last year Doubleday published the 1,608 page work *The Death Of The Messiah*. It is a stunning achievement of scholarship and objectivity. In a way it is a survey and critique of literature on the passion and death of Jesus for the last 2000 years (daunting). The method of approach in Brown's study of the passion and death is contemporary critical-historical. This means that the latest scientific tools and methods are used if it is helpful in elucidating a text — textual criticism, literary criticism, archaeological evidence, etc. Brown shows a great freedom and deep belief in his work.

It is not possible in a brief review to give a detailed analysis of this extensive and thorough work, so I would like to preselect here what I think are major features concerning the work:

1. For anyone who finishes this book he would have a deep and broad understanding of the methods used in Biblical scholarship today. That in itself would be a very great gain. He would know how passages, paragraphs, sentences and words are analysed in very great detail to come to an understanding of what is their meaning.

2. The very first gospel, Mark, was written some 30 years after the death of Jesus. The gospel of John, maybe some 40 years after the gospel of Mark. The early Christian communities had to contend with different forces as their faith developed and deepened. Brown illustrates throughout his book the forces upon these communities, and therefore upon the writers of the different gospels who were writing for these communities. The passion narratives demonstrate that the Christians were trying to show that they were correct in their belief in the face of their enemies and that their enemies were wrong. But most of all, according to Brown, the passion narratives are an expression of the deep faith of the gospel writers and their communities in Jesus who suffered and died, the one through whom God is breaking through.

3. Since the gospels were written some years after the events described in them, the question of the source material of the different gospels is important. For the passion narrative Brown throughout the work gives a detailed presentation of the agreed upon sources and the possible sources. The oral tradition is a very important source, and in the book how this source functioned becomes clear. There was a basic memory of the passion within the different communities; this was put into words through the influence of such factors as the Old Testament, needs of the

community and theology of the specific author.

The first followers of Jesus were pious Jews. Their religious sensitivities were shaped by their religious tradition. Therefore scripture was very important in interpreting who and what Jesus did. The influence of scripture is very evident in the composition of the passion narratives.

Some communities were facing martyrdom; some passages of the passion narratives would have been structured as a direct encouragement to these good believers.

The different writers of the gospels had different theologies — i.e. they interpreted the meaning of the passion and death of Jesus in different ways. For example, Mark has Jesus abandoned and alone in a way which John could not accept. John's theology is that Jesus is in charge even of his own death. These different insights give us a rich variety with regard to the presentation of the death of Jesus, but they also give rise to different details in the presentation of the story, and some details that may not be compatible. The overall story is based on historical fact — the passion and death of Jesus — but many details are not easily historically proven.

4. On page 1092 Brown begins a discussion that is very pertinent to this part of the world, the topic that Jesus himself did not die but that someone else substituted for him. Ideas on substitution were

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floating around in the 2nd century in connection with gnostic theology. It seems that such heterodox thinking originating in Syria was influential on Arabian Christianity. For the very first Christians the sources indicate that there was no doubt that Jesus died.

For many Christians this book would be very difficult to read, not merely because it is very scholarly and detailed, but because not being used to reflect upon their faith they would find some of the discussions threatening. But an assumption throughout the book is helpful, that Jesus is not an idea but a person and as we believers have the challenge to put into words as best we can the meaning of Jesus. The gospel writers had a special grace to represent Jesus in a way that would convey the faith in a profound and accurate way. If we do not have the same grace we do have the on-going challenge to understand the faith as best we can in a profoundly changing world. The book of Raymond Brown is an exquisite example of an attempt at this. This book is among the most significant for Christianity published in recent times.

The only wish I have is that Brown would produce a briefer and less detailed edition of this work so that wide ranges of people would be able to enjoy it and gain from it.

Thomas J. Fitzpatrick

A truly great man

Long Walk To Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

Little, Brown
 And Company, London, £20. 1994. 617 pages.

This is a wonderful book about a truly great man, and yet it is not a life that one can easily grasp or appreciate. For what can one make of the life of a man who went to jail when he was 44 years old and left it when he was 71, 10,000 days of imprisonment, and then in two years became the elected president of the country. Or the fact that President Nelson Mandela, a world figure, Nobel Peace Prize winner, spent the first ten years of his life, very happily, in a tiny village in Transkei, at the tip of South Africa, living in a mud-floored hut, without a single article of furniture, clad in a single blanket, draped over the shoulder and pinned at the waist, a herd-boy looking after sheep and calves in the field — what he calls a "country childhood." And yet he describes himself as a "member of a royal household" and at one point had to remind his future son-in-law that he was marrying a "princess".

Naturally, a great many influences have gone into the making of a statesman who is also a modern-day saint, and who, because of his moral stature, stands head and shoulders above the rather shabby array of present-day leaders.

There is his love of nature, a very important element in his make-up. "It is from these days (as a herd-boy) I date my love of the veld, of open spaces, the simple beauties of nature, the clean line of the

horizon. His patriotism and idealism is rooted in that love.

There is his "royal" background because of which he believes that a sense of personal dignity is all-important, and that in a freedom struggle the people must first be liberated from a sense of psychological inferiority towards their opponent. In that sense many nominally "free" countries are really not free, like Cyprus (both sides of the island) and almost all Arab countries and even huge Indonesia.

There was the national struggle itself which, especially when, as the elusive "black pimpnel", Mandela was working underground because of which he came into close contact with people of every type and social class and colour so that his human experience cut across the divisions, not only between blacks, coloureds and whites, but also those between the many tribes within the black community, thus peculiarly fitting him for his present post of state president.

The characteristic that has marked out Mandela is that he has no, hatred for his former white enemies and that he is prepared to build a new multi-racial South Africa based on reconciliation. Not because he is a Gandhian or a believer in non-violence. As the first commander-in-chief of the armed wing of the African National Congress, the MK, or Umkhonto We Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation, he could not be a pacifist. But he accepted non-violence as a tactic when violence would have been self-defeating: "To make peace with an enemy one must work with that enemy, and that enemy becomes your partner."

Which is what has happened in South Africa, thanks to the lead given by Mandela. From his experience he reached the conclusion that whites could not be blamed for everything because "all men have a core of decency" and that there was "a middle-ground between white fears and black hopes" and that "to drive the whites away would devastate the nation."

Though his relations with his partner in the South African "miracle", his white Vice President F.W. De Klerk, who shares much of the credit for the miracle, remained testy down to the time Mandela wrote this autobiography. (Incidentally, the first draft of this document was written in his cell in Robben Island Jail, buried in the garden, discovered and destroyed and then had to be reconstituted in its present form).

It is extremely fortunate for South Africa that Mandela, despite his many years in prison and his age — he is now in his mid-seventies — is so hail and hearty. Perhaps because of his long years in prison when he led a regular life with physical labour, which he says he enjoyed "using all my muscles" breaking rocks into gravel. In addition, he was always a physical fitness fanatic and at one time in prison was exercising for an hour and a half everyday.

Although this is primarily the story of Mandela's part in the South African freedom struggle (the new South African flag is proudly displayed on the spine of the book) in a work of over 600 pages we inevitably learn a lot about the man himself. Thus, apart from physical exercise he is a fanatic about gardening and at one point on Robben Island he could proudly list the 13 types of vegetables and fruit,

900 plants in all, which he grew; he enjoyed taking part in the prison's amateur dramatics and particularly mentions his pleasure in playing the part of King Creon in the *Antigone* of Sophocles, because the heroine was also a rebel; he is also a fan of the film star Sophia Loren; of course he read a great deal and though the prison library was limited it was a serious collection of which he mentions Steinbeck's *Grapes Of Wrath* and the greatest of all novels, Tolstoy's *War And Peace*, to which Mandela returned many times. (His father, he tells us, could not read or write).

It tells us much of the quality of his mind and character when he says that at least his prison years gave him time to think and that as a result of his thinking in prison he hated white people less and the whites' apartheid system more.

He is touchingly loyal to his controversial wife Winnie, from whom he is now separated, after some very murky misbehaviour on her part. But she had stood by him through the darkest days and remained undaunted.

As was he: He never doubted that one day he would leave prison and that his cause would prevail — because it was just. It was this idealism and optimism that kept him going. As he put it in one of his picturesque phrases: "Your spirit can be full even when your stomach is empty." This is a truly splendid book and how can it not be? For it is the story of a great life.

G.H. Jansen

African itch drives victims towards suicide

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — One variety of the tiny white worm causes the disease widely known as "river blindness." Now, after a 25 year campaign to control it, attention is focusing on a forest-dwelling variety that makes some of its victims so itchy they want to die.

Besides the terrible itch, this variety wrinkles and spots the skin and causes other pains and troubles, said Dr. Tore Godal, who heads a new World Health Organisation (WHO) project to rid Africa of onchocerca volvulus within 10 years.

The World Bank has announced that it is looking for \$100 million for the project. Dr. Godal said the cost could be less than \$1 per victim each year. An estimated 15 million people live in countries where no effective control programme has been undertaken, including 9 million with the forest variety of the disease.

Dr. Godal said he knew of no actual suicides, but the fact that some of its victims say they are thinking of killing themselves rather than endure the intense discomfort, shows how seriously they take the affliction.

"It's especially hard on the women," Dr. Godal said in an interview. "Skin disfigurement stigmatises a person — a bigger problem than many people think."

Onchocerca volvulus is a white worm only 1.5 centimetres long. Its eggs are carried by blood-sucking black flies.

The "savanna" strain of the disease, onchocerciasis, mostly hits Africans over 40. It is sometimes called "river blindness" because the black fly breeds in swiftly flowing rivers.

Sprays from aircraft hold down the black fly, and once a year patients get a drug called Ivermectin, which kills newly hatched worms. Merck, the company that makes the drug, gives it without charge, but the project is still expected to cost \$500 million by the time it is completed in 2002.

The "forest strain" does not blind but brings on the itch, especially in people between 20 and 40. It also scars, making the skin look puckered like a lizard's or spotted like a leopard's.

Canada's health care system to undergo surgery

By Robert Kozak
Reuters
OTTAWA — Canada's health care system, admired as being one of the world's best, may soon undergo some major surgery.

Under pressure from hefty budget deficits, politicians of all stripes are searching desperately for ways to cut the bulging costs of Canada's state-funded health care system.

Speaking to newspaper editors in Dallas this week, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien vowed to save the distinctive system that allows Canadians to go to the doctor of their choice and stay in hospital at no charge.

"The fact is that no one in Canada needs to worry about medical bills," Mr. Chretien said.

Canadians spent an estimated 72 billion Canadian dollars (\$51 billion) on health care in 1993, and health costs have risen to more than 10 per cent of gross domestic product from 8.7 per cent of GDP a decade ago.

In the United States, where there is no universal coverage, health costs accounted for 14.4 per cent of economy production in 1993.

Canada's federal government wants to cut the amount it spends on health care to a level closer to that of Europe.

"I'm of the view that we have to reduce it to under nine (per cent of GDP), to be in the same range as those who have full medical care in Europe," Mr. Chretien said recently.

"They manage to do it within around eight to nine per cent of GDP, so we will do it."

Hereditary breast, ovarian cancer gene implicated in non-inherited tumors

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Scientists have found the first direct evidence that a gene causing hereditary breast and ovarian cancer also plays a role in far more common non-inherited tumors.

The hereditary cases appear in women who inherit a flawed version of the gene, which fails to suppress the development of cancer as the normal gene does. Some 10 per cent or less of breast and ovarian tumors are hereditary.

Now, for the first time, scientists have found flawed versions of the gene in non-hereditary

ovarian tumors. The genes were normal when inherited but became flawed within the patients' own bodies.

In addition, other scientists have found that the gene is under-active in non-inherited breast cancers, suggesting it may play a role in those tumors even if it is not flawed.

About 182,000 cases of breast cancer and 26,600 cases of ovarian cancer are expected to be diagnosed in American women this year.

The gene, called BRCA1, causes about half of inherited breast cancers. It made headlines last year when it was finally found after a long

search. The finding of flawed BRCA1 genes in non-inherited ovarian tumors is reported by two groups in the April issue of the journal Nature Genetics.

One group, from the universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania and the National Institutes of Health, reports the finding in four of 47 tumors. A second team, from England and Canada, found a single example.

Results suggest that flaws in the BRCA1 gene may be involved in at least 10 per cent of non-inherited ovarian cancers, said Dr. Sofia Merajver of the University of Michigan Medical School,

lead author of one report. Some regions of the gene have not yet been thoroughly examined, and they may produce more examples of flaws in non-inherited cancer, she said.

The gene could be implicated in still more cases if its anti-cancer control is stymied by other means, such as defects in other genes that turn BRCA1 on and off, she said.

That idea is advanced in the breast cancer study, which also appears in Nature Genetics. Researchers from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, report that the BRCA1 gene is much less active in non-inherited breast

tumors than in normal breast tissue.

In addition, when the researchers artificially reduced the effect of BRCA1 in normal and cancerous breast cells, it made the cells grow and divide faster. Such fast

growth is a hallmark of cancer.

The results support the notion that a decrease in the control BRCA1 exerts over cell growth can help cause non-inherited breast cancer, said Vanderbilt researcher Jeffrey Holt.

That could occur even if the BRCA1 gene is perfectly normal. The decrease could be caused by defects in genes that control BRCA1's activity levels, Dr. Holt said. Scientists can now try to identify those genes and see

Military technology takes aim at breast cancer

By Joanne Kenen
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Women's health advocates and the CIA, in an unusual alliance, recently showed off some of the ultra high-tech military technology they are trying to adapt to save women from breast cancer.

Soldiers, spies and rocket scientists are working with radiologists, cancer

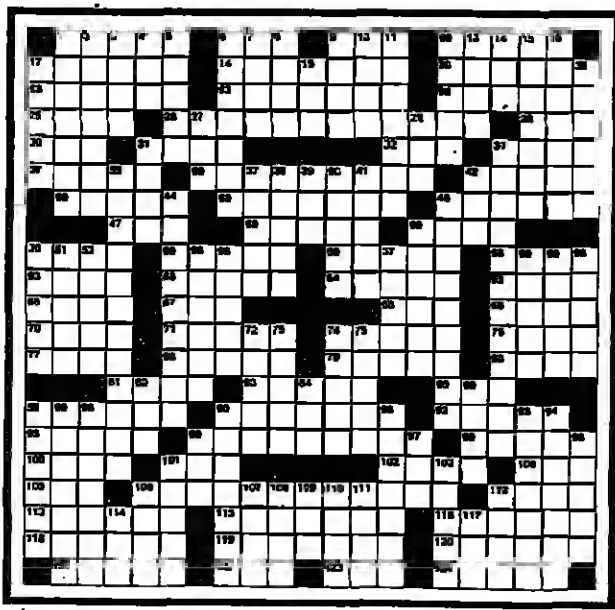
specialists and public health officials to find medical adaptations for technology used to track an enemy missile or map the surface of Mars.

The programme is "an innovative transfer of technology from the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) world of satellites and missiles to the Public Health Service's world of women and breast cancer," said Dr. Susan

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ON LOCATION
By William Canine

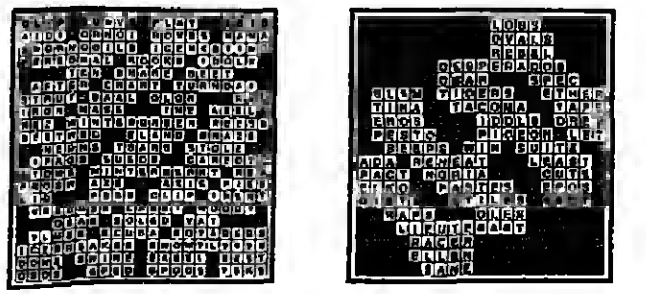
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DIAGRAMLESS 10 x 10
By James Barrick

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Famous banjo player flies to jungle country to perform in a concert for big money.
2. Inconspicuous washerwoman dumps sudsy wash water onto pig sty — anguished.
3. In caverns, stalactites grow down as they drip, and stalagmites may develop upward under them.
4. Sisyphus: That time when sun, Earth and our moon are amazingly aligned all in a row.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LYN ORUNE KCBSS FIMEDP BDLBN FLYMK
RD HITEK ED WYRDC EW DRIKXK PRT
WRY OLDTRICE? — By Ed Huddleston

2. YLIP LOROT YRALZX AROLOENBUZI NRP
LDRDY LII YNB GBBYQWE LWA PQIXQW
YNYL FWY EW ERQW TURDEN INB
UZBI? — By Rita Salvato

3. JEEP OMVLFED ET KIFFC VOMOP
YDBILWEY: "ONY FORO TWEEBOSJ TDYV
DSI RIXKOF ET VERBUDY." — By Thomas H. McGee

4. MKWB W MUSIC CLUB SR HELVC OU BE
AWOI W BLDW MBR W ASHREVE. — By Frank H. Stein

Shorter antibiotic use works in U.S. sinus infection study

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — People with sinus infections recovered just as well after taking three days of an antibiotic as they did after taking the usual 10-day course, according to a new study.

The research contradicts conventional wisdom that more than a week of antibiotic treatment is needed to give such drugs a chance to wipe out the infection.

Sinus infections send Americans to doctors' offices 16 million times yearly, and physicians write almost that many antibiotic prescriptions annually for the condition, the researchers noted in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The lead study author said patient savings could be close to \$50 million a year.

Economy

Dollar hovers around 80 yen after hitting new low

TOKYO (R) — The dollar was hovering above 80 yen Wednesday afternoon after plunging to a fresh post-war low, as Japan's finance minister warned the United States against using its weak currency as a trade tool.

The dollar was quoted at around 80.15 yen in afternoon Tokyo trade, lifted off its new low of 79.75 yen hit in the morning by operators' short-covering.

In comments that appeared to be aimed at Washington, the minister said that it was wrong to use currencies as a trade negotiating tool and that both intervention and

interest rate policies were effective to counter the yen's rise.

"Currencies must reflect economic fundamentals, and when they fail to do so, we must make utmost efforts to let them (reflect fundamentals)," he told a news conference.

The U.S. currency has plummeted more than 20 per cent this year, from a high of 101.45 yen in January.

Many dealers suspect Washington may be tolerating, if not encouraging, a weak dollar to pry trade concessions from Japan.

President Bill Clinton told a news conference earlier

that the United States wanted a stronger dollar, but he raised questions about governments' ability to affect currency direction in the short term.

Mr. Clinton also highlighted gaps between Japan and the United States over trade — differences which are weighing heavily on the dollar's value.

"We have been very patient as a country for a very long time in this area," he said but added that the two countries "should not be at risk of a trade war."

His comments followed news of a persistent stalemate in U.S.-Japan auto trade

talks in Washington.

"I think the U.S. is putting more stress on correcting the trade imbalance rather than concerning itself about the weak dollar," said Shingo Toda of Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance.

The dollar's latest decline followed market disappointment with Japan's emergency economic package and a discount rate cut to a new historic low of one per cent last Friday.

Disappointment over slim results from a meeting between the Japanese minister and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin over the weekend also undermined

sentiment this week.

Japanese Finance Ministry sources, however, said Japan felt it had done all it could to counter the yen's rise, while Japan's chief spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the real problem rested with the United States, Jiji news agency reported.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Mutsushita told a separate news conference that Japan's government should urge Washington to cut its huge budget deficit.

"There are worries in the market about structural problems of the United States. We need to strongly urge the

United States to cut its budget deficit," Mr. Mutsushita said.

Economists said they saw little hope of quick action by the United States to save the dollar, either by raising interest rates or showing resolve to cut its budget deficit.

Japanese stocks shrugged off the yen's surge and remained ahead in mid-afternoon, but their gains were technical. The Nikkei share average closed, up 150.77 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 16,376.08.

The dollar fell as low as 1.3465 against the German mark and was trading at about 1.3508 in late afternoon.

Iran scrubs highest exchange rate for rial

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has scrubbed its highest official dollar exchange rate for the Iranian rial, the governor of the central bank announced in a move acknowledging the currency's two-year plunge.

Governor Mohtashem Nakhsheh told the government daily Iran that the rate of 70 rials to the dollar only really used for imports of basic products had been abandoned on March 21.

Letters of credit issued at the former rate by the central bank for Iranian importers would be honoured at the

official "floating" rate of 1,750 rials to the dollar, he added.

The move will further clamp down on imports as Iran struggles under an economic crisis, a lack of hard currency and a short-and-medium-term debt of more than \$30 billion.

Apart from the floating rate — which has in fact been fixed for the past 18 months — there is also an "import-export" rate of 2,340 rials to the dollar which is applied to Iranian exporters wanting to import products.

German banks warn of danger to exports as mark rises

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — German exporters face being tightly squeezed by the mark's endless rise against European currencies and the dollar, the Association of German Banks (BDB) warned in its weekly report Wednesday.

The aeronautical arms of Daimler-Benz, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (DASA), added its voice to the concern, saying it faced "three-figure losses" of more than 100 million than 100 million marks," Bischoff said.

He was echoing earlier warnings from German industrialists who have looked on aghast as the greenback sank down to Wednesday's trading level of 1.3520 marks, not far off its record low of 1.3450 reached on March 8. It had closed at 1.3465 Tuesday in London.

The U.S. currency edged back just above Tuesday evening's 1.3645 marks Wednesday afternoon, after the U.S. trade deficit shrank to \$9 billion for February below an expected \$10 billion.

A German finance ministry spokeswoman said meanwhile Bonn was worried by the turmoil on the currency markets, but said the instability would correct itself eventually.

The BDB warned, however, that current rates would fuel pressure on German producers having to compete with foreign enterprises.

The association said the mark's appreciation against the dollar was not so much a problem as its rise against European currencies. The weak greenback in fact helps to keep down the price of dollar-denominated raw materials.

OECD warns Turkey on risks in delaying reforms

PARIS (AFP) — Turkey risks encountering renewed financial-market instability which could jeopardise growth if it delays economic reforms and sustained budget deficit reduction, the OECD warned Wednesday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) foresaw a modest recovery this year from a sharp 1994 slowdown that followed overheating of the economy at end-1993 and the January 1994 run against the Turkish lira.

After several years of rapid growth, Turkey's GDP had fallen by 4.8 per cent last year and inflation averaged 120 per cent year-on-year, as the government implemented a strong stabilisation programme in the wake of the lira's 70 per cent first-quarter plunge against the dollar.

In a survey of the Turkish economy, the OECD said authorities had achieved "considerable short-term success" in stabilising financial market conditions, "but lasting stability is not assured."

It said durable expansion of the economy, led by exports and private investment, would depend on "reining in inflation, fundamental structural reform and sustained medium-term fiscal consolidation."

The OECD said last year's crisis was a consequence of lax fiscal policy, run-away inflation and chronic large budget deficits in the early 1990s, which allowed the public sector borrowing requirement to rise to 12 per cent of GDP by 1993.

It said this had hit confidence and raised concerns about Turkey's ability to service its external debt, which stood at \$64.8 billion September 1994, of which \$8.2 billion was owed by private sector borrowers.

Turkey's debt service at that time accounted for 29 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings, according to

the report, which noted that the early-1994 lira crisis was triggered when two international rating agencies downgraded its sovereign credit rating.

The agencies removed Turkey from "credit watch" status last summer, as the April stabilisation programme, backed by the International Monetary Fund, began to yield results.

The public sector borrowing requirement was cut on balance to an estimated 7.4 per cent of GDP overshooting the target of 6.2 per cent mainly because of delays in privatisation of loss-making State Economic Enterprises and higher debt service, the OECD said.

The balance of payments improved substantially, and exchange market stability was restored, with the lira showing a year-on-year depreciation of about 30 per cent at end-1994.

The lira depreciation and the imminent customs union with the European Union should give a boost to Turkey's exports and help dampen inflation over the next two years, the OECD said.

It said output should grow by about 2.8 per cent this year and a modest 1.5 per cent rise in investment.

For 1996, the OECD saw a more broadly-based recovery, with GDP growth rising to 4.8 per cent, helped by a brisk recovery in investment.

It said inflation could fall sharply to 70 per cent on average in 1995 and 40 per cent in 1996, while the current account surplus should rise to the \$4.0 to \$4.5 billion range from \$3.0 billion in 1994.

The OECD said the medium-term outlook for the Turkish economy was "fundamentally bright", but could be realised only by meeting the 1995 budget targets and accelerating structural reforms to overhaul "a bloated, inefficient public sector."

Arab Gulf states to forge new foreign economic ties

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Key ministers from six Arab Gulf oil states will meet next month to try to forge a new economic relationship with Japan and other industrial giants to acquire technology and promote non-oil exports, officials said Wednesday.

The ministers of foreign affairs, oil, economy and finance from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will hold a rare meeting in Riyadh in late May which will also discuss the latest plunge in the U.S. dollar which has combined with low crude prices to aggravate their economic woes.

"It is the first meeting by such ministers in several years. It will focus on our relations with Japan, the United States, the European Union (EU) and other world groupings. We feel it is time that we draw up a mechanism for such a relationship that will benefit all of us," an official from the GCC secretariat told AFP by telephone from the Riyadh headquarters.

"The talks will also cover the continuous decline in the U.S. dollar, its impact on our economies and measures to counter such effects," he added.

The official, who requested anonymity, confirmed a report by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Bayan that the meeting would be held just before talks between the GCC ministers and EU foreign ministers on May 29.

The GCC ministers' under-secretaries will meet around May 23 to prepare guidelines for new relations and negotiations with those groups.

Al Bayan said the GCC secretariat had sent letters to member states asking them to present their views about such a relationship and what they can offer foreign partners in return for more economic concessions.

It said the letter noted the GCC was about to open more rounds of economic negotiations with industrial countries and had received requests for trade talks from China, Russia, Turkey and the ASEAN group.

"This requires a joint concept about the political and economic objectives of the GCC's dialogue with other countries," the letter said.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — have been locked in negotiations with the U.S., Japan and the EU for several years in a bid to acquire technology essential to endeavours to build an industrial base and lessen reliance on unpredictable oil earnings.

They also want those countries to lift customs barriers for GCC petrochemicals, aluminium and other non-oil exports on the grounds they have free access to Gulf markets, the biggest consumer markets in the Middle East.

Although customs could be removed under the GATT deal, industrial powers have been reluctant to transfer

technology to the Gulf, arguing the region is relatively small to absorb large industrial projects and there were restrictions in most member states on foreign ownership.

The U.S. Japan and the EU are the main economic partners of the GCC, with their trade exceeding \$90 billion a year. This accounts for more than two thirds of the Gulf group's total trade.

Around 70 per cent of the GCC's oil exports of 13 million barrels per day also go to those countries.

Gulf states have launched a campaign to ease dependence on oil after a sharp decline in prices slashed their annual earnings to around \$70 billion over the past eight years from more than \$180 billion in 1981.

Despite an industrialisation drive, their non-oil exports have remained a fraction of their total exports, standing at around \$12 billion a year. This is because their industries are limited to light and medium products.

GCC states are also worried about proposals by industrial nations to impose new energy taxes, which they say will slow down growth in oil demand and inflict further damage on their economies.

"The Riyadh meeting will include a comprehensive review of economic links with world groups, and other countries and preparation of a new mechanism for a dialogue with them in the coming state," Al Bayan said.

Sterling tumbles to new lows

LONDON (R) — Sterling was forced to new lows Wednesday against the German mark and a basket of key currencies, increasing market expectations of an interest rate rise in May to defend the pound and ease inflationary pressures.

Analysts said odds on a rate rise shortened after comments released Wednesday

by Bank of England Governor Eddie George in which he expressed worry about sterling's weakness and hinted at a tightening of monetary policy if it continued.

The words struck interest rate alarm bells in the market and sent sterling to a new low in early trade in Europe Wednesday of 2.1790 marks.

Since the start of the year, it has depreciated 10 per cent against the relentlessly strong German currency.

The pound also hit a new low of 83.6 on its trade weighted index against a basket of 21 currencies, below a previous low of 84.0 set in September 1992 after the pound pulled out of Europe's exchange rate mechanism currency grid.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 20, 1995.
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Early contact advisors and plan this morning more intelligently, but tonight be concerned with the cultural side of life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can come to a fine understanding with friends and allies and achieve much today. Make plans for later tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Smile more in the outside world and you will gain your aims more readily today and the backing you need from bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can make a fine impression on newcomers today so make yourself available to them for you to have great success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be willing to do what the one you love most desires and make this person happy today. Spend some money on a new outfit.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you show your appreciation for the alliance of your partners today, they will cooperate with you more readily.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to add art pieces, music, etc. to your environment and be happier in it for later tonight.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) During spare time today see those persons you truly like, but be sure to handle business matters well first.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a day when you can have much fun today at your home and be happy. Keep active and cheerful towards others tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contact persons you admire in the outside world today and plan to see more of them in the future. Take it easy with loved ones tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get your property and other possessions beautified and made more valuable today. Be active and happy in the company for family and close friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You arise feeling aches and get much accomplished today and be happy at your duties. Later see as many good friends as you can.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 21, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your ambitions for tonight and know how best to attain them and the plan you wish to follow.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Sit in the quiet of your study this morning or be with intimates and plan tonight more intelligently. Use psychology with the one you love.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day for seeing and being with interesting friends you like and deepening the relationships of them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Study your tasks in the business world and know how better to handle them today and tonight so that you will have much success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are anxious to have new things around you and this can be achieved today. Any new contacts can remain in your life tonight.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Find a better way to please the one you love and make the relationship more meaningful. You have excellent ideas for your success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to plan greater success for yourself and fellow associates on a new assignment and to make any revisions which may be necessary.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more enthused about tasks you have to do today and you become very efficient at it. Relax tonight at home with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You get new ideas which can help you to express some talent admirably today. Don't neglect to do marketing later this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to study your loved ones and know what will give them pleasure. Make your home more charming and attractive for those who visit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study into new ways of producing and you can get ahead much faster today in your chosen career so that you can get ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Gain some new inspiration and put aside all that traditionalism today which keeps you from progressing. Show that you are clever.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

Andy Capp



Peanuts



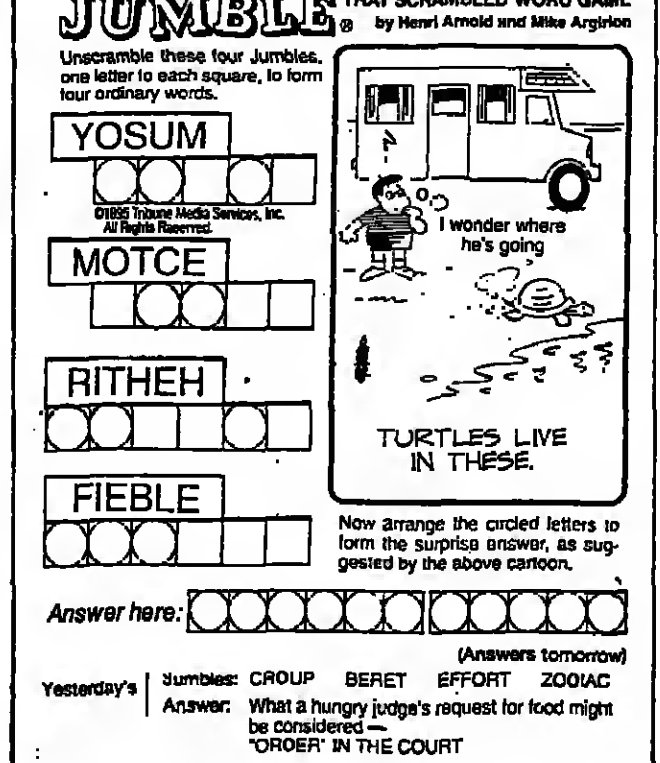
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1995

Arabs complete ambitious stocks project

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have completed a project to set up an advanced data network to link their stock markets and encourage regional investors to bring back their overseas funds, its operators said Wednesday.

The computerised stocks data network at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) was launched early this month and linked the bourses of six Arab countries, the AMF said in a statement sent to AFP.

Work on the network began five years ago and its functions cover distribution of information on stock markets and economic indicators in member states, trading institutions, prices of shares and monthly reports on turnover.

The members linked to the data base in the first stage are Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Tunisia, Kuwait and Morocco.

"The fund hopes the remaining stock exchanges in

member states will join the stock data base in the near future so it will cover the whole region and provide information on all bourses," the statement said. "It also hopes this project will stimulate investment activities, boost national savings and contribute to repatriating part of the overseas assets."

Officials said the data base was part of AMF's new policy to encourage reforms in the Arab region after billions of dollars in aid failed to produce results.

Most regional countries still suffer from such economic problems as debt, slow growth rates, unemployment, inflation and budget deficits. Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and a few other members launched economic reforms but the process has been slow.

Other countries in the region, including the oil-rich members in the Gulf, have plans to restructure their eco-

nomies due to a sharp decline in crude prices.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, said the data network was carried out with the help of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and was part of its plan to develop local stock markets.

It said the project would help "increase investment awareness in the region and enable investors to take right decisions and identify opportunities."

Experts said the network could promote investment in the region but they stressed Arab markets must first open up to investors.

They noted several regional exchanges were still confined to nationals while the more liberal floors were giving only limited access to foreigners.

"The data base is a very good idea," one expert said. "It helps me see more invest-

ment opportunities. But how can I invest in another market when its laws still bar foreigners from trading in shares?"

Only 10 of the Arab League's 22 members have formal stock exchanges and activity in such markets have remained relatively small due to political uncertainty in some members, restrictions on foreign participation and lack of information and incentives about trading institutions.

More than 1,100 banks and companies trade their shares in Arab region. Their market capitalisation exceeded \$100 billion but this remained a fraction of the total world capitalisation of more than \$9 trillion.

Arab officials have repeatedly called for the development of regional stock markets to revive their economies and attract part of the more than \$800 billion owned by regional investors abroad.

Kuwait to float new petrochemical firm

KUWAIT (R) — Shares in a new public company that will take a 10 per cent stake in a big petrochemicals complex will be offered for public subscription for two weeks from Sunday, the managers of the project have said.

Hamad Al Mishwat, project manager of Bubiyan Petrochemicals Company, told reporters the offer for Kuwaitis only was intended to raise 30 million dinars (\$103 million) by selling 300 million shares each worth 100 fils to one dinar (\$3.4).

Bubiyan will have a 10 per

cent stake in Equate, a Kuwaiti-American joint venture which will operate the emirate's first mainstream petrochemicals facility, south of Kuwait City.

Bubiyan will be the private sector's first stake in the state-dominated petroleum industry. It is one of a series of steps intended to stimulate moribund private businesses burdened by debts.

Sheikh Mishwat said private Kuwaiti individuals and firms would have priority in share allocation over public companies.

Islamic bank head says M.E. development bank not needed

DUBAI (R) — The head of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said in remarks published Tuesday that there was no need for Arab states to set up a proposed \$5 billion Middle East development bank that includes Israel.

IDB Director Osama Fagih told the United Arab Emirates Al Itihad newspaper that "there is no need for the Arab region to set up the so-called development bank in the Middle East."

"In the Arab World there are enough specialised financial institutions... supporting Arab cooperation and serving joint interests," he added.

The Arab League and the oil-rich Arab Gulf states

oppose the formation of a Middle East development bank, seen as one of the dividends of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

IDB helps finance development projects and trade among members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Officials from Arab Gulf states recently voiced strong opposition to the formation of the bank.

United Arab Emirates Finance and Industry Minister Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayar on April 12 told Arab finance ministers that setting up joint projects with Israel would be more dangerous for Arabs than Israel's deployment of nuclear weapons.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 19/04/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PIG	268	51446	193.500	191.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	27376	130283	4.840	4.800
BANK OF JORDAN	3950	15208	3.850	3.850
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4150	8410	1.600	1.550
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5150	14807	2.850	2.870
THE HOUSING BANK	43500	364486	8.000	8.150
JORDAN SAVING BANK	11035	32964	2.950	3.000
JORDAN GULF BANK	5800	8464	1.450	1.450
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	4350	14875	3.500	3.500
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	33886	138872	4.090	4.070
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1782	8415	4.700	4.730
BUSINESS BANK	8200	31396	3.800	3.890
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1450	6318	4.380	4.360
ARAB SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	5700	20222	3.400	3.370
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	74150	100597	1.390	1.340
PELLELAFIA INVESTMENT BANK	308331	638403	1.990	2.050
BANKS SECTOR	538978	1573063	INDEX NUMBER: 159.05	CHANGE: -0.33%
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	750	1398	1.850	1.850
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	37200	105151	2.830	2.830
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	500	1335	3.650	3.650
INSURANCE SECTOR	38450	107873	INDEX NUMBER: 136.60	CHANGE: +0.00%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17200	28901	1.650	1.680
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	70300	11455	1.570	1.580
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	48511	354860	7.200	7.300
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	927	892	1.800	1.810
JORDAN SIMEH MINERAL	200	522	2.610	2.610
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	850	480	5.690	5.950
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	3600	11714	3.290	3.300
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2350	5680	2.460	2.420
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	75	35	1.150	1.150
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	500	345	1.690	1.690
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALNA	100	1015	10.300	10.150
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTEL	53844	146793	2.710	3.700
ARAB HOTEL FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3837	12847	3.350	3.350
SERVICES SECTOR	201872	579940	INDEX NUMBER: 141.99	CHANGE: +0.99%
ATTAQAFI CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	2600	3146	1.150	1.210
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	12782	3719	3.990	3.100
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	5782	16330	2.700	2.640
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	1000	5753	5.800	5.750
JORDAN POTASH / NEW	1818	18142	9.400	9.480
MOORE INDUSTRIES	750	1335	1.780	1.780
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	529	1534	3.610	3.660
THE JORDAN HONEYED MILLS	350	2888	8.250	8.250
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	29060	122884	4.160	4.210
JORDAN DAIRY	1100	2750	2.500	2.500
JORDAN DAIRY	72	450	5.000	5.000
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	1980	5430	2.710	2.780
SPINNING & WEAVING	10150	36190	3.580	3.580
JORDAN INDUSTRIES	950	2391	2.510	2.510
DAR AL DAVA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3450	73451	7.950	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	45700	43410	9.930	9.920
NATIONAL STREET INDUSTRIES	3850	27720	7.150	7.200
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	36190	113507	3.030	3.150
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	8550	10345	1.300	1.200
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1050	1050	4.000	4.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & SERVICES / JINCO	800	555	6.900	6.900
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	6224	30809	4.770	4.950
JORDAN SHELTER INDUSTRIES	1200	2171	1.850	1.850
ARAB CENTER FOR FRAMES & CHEMICALS	8350	30088	3.400	3.420
FAWZIYAH INVESTMENT	3050	5367	1.730	1.800
UNIVERSAL WOOD INDUSTRIES	4000	14520	3.510	3.550
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7500	15312	3.000	2.040
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	398717	570845	INDEX NUMBER: 124.97	CHANGE: +1.48%
GRAND TOTAL	1078017	3031721	INDEX NUMBER: 148.92	CHANGE: +0.35%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 464034				
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 620276				

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	New York Close 18/4/95	Tokyo Close 19/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6140	1.6171
Deutsche Mark	1.3522	1.3492
Swiss Franc	1.1156	1.1166
French Franc	4.7695	4.7870
Japanese Yen	80.63	80.14
European Currency Unit	1.3513	1.3612

Source: Reuters

Barter Rates

Currency	1 MYR	3 MYR	6 MYR	12 MYR
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.06	6.31
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.25	6.68	7.18
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.37	4.50	4.68
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.78	3.75	3.43
French Franc	7.75	7.68	7.31	7.00
Japanese Yen	1.23	1.25	1.25	1.25
European Currency Unit	6.25	6.31	6.43	6.68

Source: Reuters

Problems Market

Commodity	USD/oz	JD/oz	Gold	Silver
Gold	391.45	7.65	6.02	0.132

Source: Reuters

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Source: 19/4/1995

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6820	0.6820
Sterling Pound	1.0974	1.1029
Deutsche Mark	0.5019	0.5054
Swiss Franc	0.6076	0.6106
French Franc	0.1476	0.1483
Japanese Yen	0.8465	0.8501
Dutch Guilder	0.4483	0.4505
Swedish Krona	0.0401	0.0403
Italian Lira	0.0401	0.0403
Belgian Franc	0.0401	0.0403

Source: Reuters

Other Currencies

Currency	Buy	Offer
Baharal Dinar	1.7180	1.6908
Lebanese Lira	0.04050	0.04150
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1829
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3182	0.3610
Qatari Riyal	0.1456	0.1470
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2090
Omani Riyal	1.7479	1.7460
UAE Dirham	0.1446	0.1456
Greek Drachma	0.2909	0.3160
Cypriot Pound	1.4502	1.5788

Source: Reuters

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3716/26	Canadian dollar
	1.3604/14	Deutschemarks
	1.5234/44	Dutch guilders
	1.1228/38	Swiss francs
	27.93/97	Belgian francs
	4.8125/75	French francs
	1706.01/0	Italian lire
	81.22/52	Japanese yen
	7.2900/00	Swedish crowns
	6.1330/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.3657/07	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.6144/54	
One ounce of gold	\$396.20/396.70	

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Kingdom's Davis Cup captain evaluates participation, urges advanced preparation for upcoming competitions

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the second consecutive year, Jordan's Davis Cup team was again unable to return to the senior division Group 2 after the conclusion of the Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 competition in Dubai.

However, the question lies not in why the team was unable to score a convincing result this year, but in what can be done to assure a brighter future for the game in the Kingdom. Prior to their departure, the players and their officials had expressed optimism that they could do well in their six-team group. However, the results were disappointing: Jordan's team scored their only win 2-1 over the UAE on the final day. They lost 3-0 to Pacific Oceania, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, and 2-1 to Lebanon.

"I was very optimistic before the competition. But while I am sure the players did their best, I am of course quite disappointed with the results," team captain Talal Maher told the Jordan Times.

Jordan finished fifth in their sixth-team group from which Saudi Arabia advanced to Group 2. In the other seven-team group playing at the same venue, Bahrain was the one to advance leaving behind Singapore, Kuwait, Brunei, Syria, Kazakhstan and Oman.

Jordan's team was led by team veteran Imad Abu Hamda who has just graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Jordan. The other players were Faris Azzouni, one of the country's top players, Khaled Hussein, and 15-year-old promising player Khaled Nafaa. Although Azzouni and

Abu Hamda had played Davis Cup before, it was the first time for the other two.

The team captain explained that while the hot and humid weather undoubtedly affected the players' performance, this should not be held as an excuse for the "poor results."

"A team should be ready for any circumstance and adapt to conditions surrounding any competition," Mr. Maher noted. "We cannot take one single factor and attribute it to our defeat."

Mr. Maher noted the fact that the team did not play any friendly matches prior to the competition had a negative effect. "It should not have been difficult for the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) to have hosted a team from a nearby country. That would have put the players in the mood for competition, and would have displayed any shortcomings while they were still here."

He added that it was also a disadvantage not to have the coach with the team at the competition.

"I couldn't have expected more from the players in Dubai. They gave it all they have," Faris (Azzouni) played an outstanding 3-hour-long match against Lebanon. He was absolutely brilliant. Imad (Abu Hamda) undoubtedly felt he had a lot of pressure on him and he played very well on the first two days before coming down with a cold. Although we lost, the matches were very close."

Mr. Maher added: "We should have been better prepared, especially fitnesswise."

However taking into consideration the circumstances of the competing players and the very young age of the rest of the country's promising players, one should not expect any other results.

The Kingdom's former top-ranked player Hani Al Ali who retired in 1993, always stressed the fact that

the national tennis team was only regrouped for a certain competition, with no prior training or matches. In addition the number of players was also very limited.

This year too, the JTF faced the same problem. While Abu Hamda was busy with his final year at university, he missed last year's competitions. In order to get back into action he attended a 10-day training camp in Spain and played with his coaches. While the Kingdom's 1994 champion Laith Al Azzouni is this year busy with his tawjihi, his brother Faris was the only other experienced player on the team. Khaled Hussein, who studies in the U.S., was in Amman only shortly before the competition, leaving his coach and officials little time to evaluate his form. Himself and the youngest member of the team, Khaled Nafaa, almost lacked the competitive match experience on

the Davis Cup level.

So what should be done in future competitions? "First of all there should be change of attitude," said Mr. Maher. "All concerned should feel that we will be playing to compete, and not just for the sake of participation."

"I suggest that we start our preparations for the upcoming Davis Cup (scheduled for March '96) this summer, and not merely two months before. We should also concentrate on the young promising players that we have, who are always there for practice and not just that burdened with their studies."

"Coming up with the necessary sponsorship and year-round practice to maintain a competitive team will need a lot of effort, but it is the only way to compete on a regional level. All other nations we played are well advanced in this regard. It is time we prepare well too," he added.

Five Cuban boxers banned for doping

BONN (R) — Five Cuban boxers, including former world bantamweight champion Enrique Carrion, have been banned for two years for taking the banned diuretic furosemide, the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) said on Wednesday. AIBA said the Cuban Boxing Federation had announced the ban after the boxers tested positive for the drug during out-of-competition tests. The international federation has suspended the fighters from all events.

The other fighters on the list were Alexander Jimenez Rodriguez, a junior flyweight world champion, Mario Kin-

delan Mesa, Yoandri Reyes Pie and Ernesto Cabrera Laugar.

Last November Cuban world flyweight champion Waldemar Font and Manuel Mantilla Rodriguez, who won gold medals at last year's Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, tested positive for the same drug.

The AIBA was not immediately able to give any dates regarding the positive tests and no spokesman was available to give any more information about the cases.

Diuretics are sometimes used to shed weight quickly or decrease the concentration of drugs in urine.

Cantona starts punishment

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Eric Cantona's fans migrated from far and wide Tuesday to see their soccer hero begin the 120 hours community service punishment he got for attacking an abusive fan at a match in January.

"Cantona was absolutely fantastic with the kids, absolutely unbelievable," said Anthony Cain, coach of a community center team that the Manchester United star worked within in his first session.

"He was superb, couldn't have been better."

Among the crowd of admirers that showed up for the fiery Frenchman's first

day of atonement were fans from Norway, and a coachload of French school children from Perpignan in southwestern France, come to see their compatriot after a rugby league tour of the North of England.

The Palace XXIII under-15's posed for a picture with Cantona and their coach, the former French rugby league captain, Guy Leforgue.

Cantona spent the morning at United's Littleton training ground with his junior club colleagues before being driven away to the Cliff to teach football skills to children from the Ellesmere Park Junior School.

SWATCH ART CONTEST FOR STUDENTS

Swatch, the Swiss watch maker is launching a unique art contest involving more than 25,000 students from 50 private schools throughout Amman. Each participating student will receive a Swatch Maxxi for their support. The winning designs will be sent to the Swatch headquarters in Switzerland giving the opportunity for some designers to discover hidden talents and perhaps become one of many Swatch accredited artists.

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Spurs beat Nuggets; Lakers, Cavs lose

SAN ANTONIO (R) — David Robinson led the San Antonio Spurs past the Denver Nuggets 107-96 on Tuesday in a possible preview of the first round of the Western Conference playoffs, but he refuses to get ahead of himself.

"We can't afford to look too far down the road," said Robinson, who scored eight of his 30 points in an 18-2 fourth-quarter run for the NBA leaders (59-20).

"The confidence level is there right now. We've proven during the season that we can play at a consistent level for a long time. Now we have to do it when it counts." Avery Johnson netted a career-high 29 and Dennis Rodman added 13 rebounds as the Spurs swept a home-and-home series with Denver, won their third straight game and maintained a two-game lead over second-place Utah in the Midwest Division.

"Denver is not an easy team," Johnson said. "They're very tough and they're very deep. All 12 guys can play. People expect us to

blow out every team because we have the best record in the league, but that's just not going to happen."

Jalen Rose and Bryant Stith scored 20 points and Dikembe Mutombo had 17 points and 16 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have dropped five of their last eight games but lead Sacramento by a game in the race for the final Western Conference playoff berth.

In Dallas, Jamal Mashburn scored 20 points and Roy Tarpley added 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Mavericks stayed in the hunt for a playoff berth with a 104-91 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Mavericks trail Denver by two games and Sacramento by one, in the battle for the last western playoff spot.

Loy Vaughn scored 28 points and ripped down 17 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost five straight and have dropped all three games to Dallas this season. In Phoenix, Charles Barkley scored 28 points and grab-

bed 11 rebounds as the Suns opened a 14-point first-quarter lead and coasted to a 111-101 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Wayman Tisdale added 18 points for the Suns, who maintained their half-game lead over Seattle for first place in the Pacific Division. Mitch Richmond scored 28 points for the Kings.

At Los Angeles, Gary Payton scored 17 of his 28 points in the first quarter as the Seattle SuperSonics opened a huge first-half lead and breezed to a 113-97 win over the Lakers.

Seattle scored the first 11 points and never looked back. Payton, who is nursing a broken ring finger on his

left hand, hit 7-of-8 shots in the first quarter as the Sonics built a 34-21 lead after one. Seattle then scored the first 10 points of the second quarter and led by 30 at the half.

The Sonics have won three of their last four games. Anthony Peeler scored 18 points for Los Angeles, which has dropped five of its last six games and has seen its lead over Houston shrink to half a game for sixth place in the west.

At Minnesota, Karl Malone scored 32 points and David Benoit scored seven of his 16 in a key third-quarter run as the Utah Jazz eased to a 113-94 victory over the Timberwolves.

RESULTS

Detroit	85	Cleveland	76
Utah	113	Minnesota	94
San Antonio	107	Denver	96
Dallas	104	L.A. Clippers	91
Phoenix	111	Sacramento	101
Seattle	113	L.A. Lakers	97
Golden State	103	Portland	102

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TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education announces the Tendering of the following tender as a part of the Seventh Educational Project No. 2890-JO.

1. Tender's No.: 1/95
2. Title: Books on Education Related to Research & Devt.
3. Financed through: IBRD (2890-JO).
4. Fees of each bid document is:
A. J.D (50) or
B. US\$ (75) or
C. £ (50) or equivalent, and should be paid to MOE before opening date.

Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's document from Procurement Division of the Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting April 19, 1995 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 11.00 A.M. of May 24, 1995.
Head of Special Tenders Committee

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Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Cinema	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema	Tel.: 675571	Cinema	Tel.: 625550
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabli Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAM THEATRE	
Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15		Bruce Willis & John Travolta in PULP FICTION Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damme STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawaf daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Hafei Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'di's Return ☆☆		COMING SOON The Comedy Show CABARET		Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays	

Jordan's U-22 basketball team leaves for Malaysia today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Under-22 basketball team leaves for Malaysia Thursday evening to take part in an eight-nation international basketball tournament which will be held in Kuala Lumpur April 24-30.

Jordan will be the only Arab country playing in the tournament, the proceeds of which will be donated to kidney disease patients.

Participating teams are China, Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Russia. The Municipality of Greater Amman has sponsored the participation with JD 10,000 as Jordan's U-22 team will be representing the City of Amman.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) sees this as a good opportunity for this age-group before the



Mohammad Shamali



Yousef Abu Baker

U-22 team is soon regrouped in preparation for the Arab championship which will be held in Amman March 1996. Jordan will then play in the Asian U-22 championship in Shanghai in June '96.

The JBF has been criticised for not including players from various clubs as the team groups players from only three clubs: Jazireh, Ahli and Ortho-

Only two of the players are over 22, Jihad Saliba and Marwan Saeedi. Three players represent the U-18 team: Ma'an Odeh, Zeid Alkhas and Mahmoud Shaaban. The other players are Riyadh Ayyesh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Yousef Abu Bakr, Husam Abdul Latif, Moustafa Al Ghoul, Faisal Nsour, and Naser Alawneh. The most notable absent-

tees are Ramez Ham-moudeh, Mohammad Al Shamali and Ghaith En-nabi.

Although it might be argued that the U-22 team travelling to Malaysia was only recently regrouped and did not practice together for a long time, JBF chairman Awwad Haddad said players were not out of action throughout the past months. "Al Ahli's players joined their team in the Arab Clubs Championship which was held in Cairo recently, while Al Orthodoxy's players participated in a friendly tournament in Syria. U-18 players have been practicing with their team in preparation for the World Championship in July."

For the past two weeks the U-22 team has been playing as a separate team in the Aramex tournament grouping different companies.

Triple Olympic ski champion retires

ZURICH (Agencies) — Switzerland's triple Olympic Alpine skiing champion Vreni Schneider announced her retirement from active competition on Wednesday.

Schneider, 30, who last month clinched her third World Cup overall title by taking the season's last slalom, told a news conference she had decided to end her 11-year career "on a high note."

The supreme technical skier, Schneider also won three World Championship titles to add to her three Olympic gold medals.

Widely acknowledged as the best women's Alpine skier of all time, her 55 World Cup triumphs was second only to the 62 wins of the legendary Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell.

Schneider's best season was in 1989 when she won a record 14 World Cups comprising six giant slaloms, seven slaloms and a combined event to eclipse the previous best mark of 13 set by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark.

Schneider won the gold medal in the slalom and giant slalom in the 1988 Olympics and in the slalom in Lillehammer last year.

She won her first World Cup race in 1984 and subsequently became the most consistent skier on the women's circuit. Although she disliked the speed races, she forced herself to compete in downhill and super-G's to pick up extra points.

Top-ranked Steffi Graf says she is taking a four-week break from tennis to avoid burning herself out and to stay healthy.

In an interview with the Sport-Bild magazine released Tuesday, Graf said she would return at the German Open in Berlin May 15-20.

"If I continued to play now, I'd burn myself out and I don't want to do that. The most important thing for me this year is to stay healthy and I'm going to take as much time off as I need," Graf was quoted as saying by the magazine.

Graf dismissed reports in some German newspapers that the back injury that kept her sidelined for several weeks had returned.

She extended her 1995 unbeaten match streak to 18-0 by winning her fourth title of the year at the Houston women's tennis championship Sunday.

UEFA Cup final will be an all-Italian affair

PARIS (AFP) — The UEFA Cup final next month became an all-Italian affair when Juventus and Parma saw off their German rivals in their second-leg semi-final matches on Tuesday.

Parma were first into the final when they beat Bayer Leverkusen in Italy 3-0 with goals from Faustino Asprillo and one from Gianfranco Zola to win 5-1 on aggregate.

Several hours later Juventus, who met Parma in the Italian Cup final in June, booked their place in next month's UEFA Cup final by beating Borussia Dortmund in Germany 2-1 to win 4-3 on aggregate.

It was a stunning performance from Parma's Colombian star Asprillo which assured them of their third European final appearance in three years.

The Italian side won the European Cup Winner's Cup in '93 and the European Super Cup last year.

The South American struck after only four minutes when he hit home a loose ball after Leverkusen goalkeeper Rüdiger Vollborn failed to hold a shot from Massimo

Crippa.

It was to be a fatal blow for the German whose hopes of reaching the final had suddenly gone from slim to almost non-existence.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg the Germans, despite several threatening attacks from striker Rudi Voeller, never looked like scoring the two goals they need to keep their slender hopes alive.

When Asprillo struck again 10 minutes into the second half after being put through by midfielder Gianfranco Zola, all German hopes were completely dashed.

The Colombian capped off a brilliant performance by supplying the finishing pass to Zola to score in the 67th minute.

"It was a great performance," said Parma coach Nevio Scala. "For the third year in a row we are in a European final."

In Dortmund, Juventus needed all their experience to beat Borussia Dortmund despite taking the lead after only six minutes thanks to a goal by Sergio Porrini from a corner.

Only four minutes later

Borussia's Brazilian star and former Juventus player Julio Cesar levelled the score from a free kick.

Borussia, beaten in the UEFA Cup final in 1993 by Juventus, nearly took the lead minutes later through their 17-year-old Ghana player Ibrahim Takkou but in the 31st minute Juventus captain Roberto Baggio sealed the German's fate.

From a direct free-kick Baggio's perfectly placed shot gave goalkeeper Stefan Klos no chance.

With nothing to lose the Germans pushed forward and Lars Ricken headed home from a corner in the second half but the goal was disallowed by Dutch referee Van der Ende who claimed the outswinging ball had crossed the line and come back in to play.

Juventus almost made it 3-1 in the final five minutes when a fierce shot from Paulo Sousa beat Klos but hit the post but by then the match had already been sealed.

The first-leg of the final will be played on May 3 in Parma with Juventus hosting the second-leg on May 17.

Ivanisevic, Berasategui out of Nice Open

NICE (Agencies) — Defending champion Alberto Berasategui and Goran Ivanisevic, the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds at the Nice Open, both dropped out of their first-round matches with injuries Tuesday.

Berasategui, after two hours of play against fellow Spaniard Alberto Costa, had to withdraw due to body cramps and was barely able to hold his racket.

Costa lost the first-set tiebreaker, 10-8 but was winning in the second, 4-0, when Berasategui called it quits.

Berasategui won the Nice tournament last year, that started a successful year for him that included a spot in the French Open final and a rise into the top 10.

Ivanisevic, a former Wimbledon finalist, beat Henri Leconte of France in the first set, 6-2, but lost the first game of the second set before defaulting, citing pain in his right knee. He dropped out of a tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, in February and had an operation to repair cartilage damage before returning last week at Barcelona, where he made the semifinals.

"It started hurting in the first set," Ivanisevic said. "Then I couldn't bend it any more. I will get some treatment tomorrow and take a few days of rest."

In other first round matches, Tomas Carbonell of Spain beat Olivier Delatre of France, 6-3, 6-0; Mark Woodforde of Australia downed Horst Skoff of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) and top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia eliminated American David Wheaton.

Javier Sanchez of Spain beat a former Nice winner, Andrei Chesnokov of Russia, 6-3, 6-3.

The season's best clay court player, Thomas Muster of Austria, is not entered in the tournament. Muster won the past two tournaments in Estoril, Portugal, and Barcelona, and is unbeaten in 16 matches on clay this year.

Chang, Ferreira advance

Both local hero Michael Chang and second seeded Wayne Ferreira made it through to the second round of the \$328,000 Hong Kong Open Tuesday without too many problems. Also through, but not without a fight, was third seed Jim Courier, the 1992 Hong Kong holder who won last week's Japan Open with a victory over world No. 1 Andre Agassi.

In an evening match Chang maintained his hero status in his spiritual home of Hong



Alberto Berasategui

Kong as he overpowered Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-1, 6-3.

Change, a sporting idol in the territory who makes much of his multi-million dollar annual income from contracts and sponsorships relating to the Asian region, had the overwhelming support of the crowd watching on Centre Court at Victoria Park.

Courier finally subdued his 21-year-old South Korean opponent who put up a brave losing fight against the world No. 11.

Young Yi-Yoon, ranked 289th in the world on the ATP Tour, refused to roll over and die and sent Courier scurrying around court with a variety of lobs, drop shots and solid groundstrokes.

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- Should be medically fit and under 35 years of age.
- Be of good conduct and never had been indicted in any case involving honour or integrity.
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- Should have a minimum of three years experience after internships in various sections.
- Experience with military institutions is a preference.
- Those selected will be given the rank of captain.

2—Fringe benefits can be obtained in detail from the military attaché at the Omani Embassy in Amman. Applications, along with a CV in English, photocopies of certificates of experience and scientific degrees as well as a recent photo of the applicant, should be sent to:

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11121 Jordan**

Within less than 15 days since the publication of the advertisement, mentioning the full mailing address clearly along with the telephone number. Dates for interviewing the applicants at the military Attaché's office will be set later.

Ministry of Labour approval No. 7/13/116 date April 18, 1995.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A YAMAM HERSCH
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NO PLACE FOR ACES

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ A Q 10 4
♥ 2
♦ Q 9 7 6 5
♣ A 4

WEST EAST
♠ 8 5 3 ♠ 7 2
♥ K J 7 6 ♥ Q J 10 4 3
♦ 2 ♦ Q 10 4 3
♣ J 10 8 2 ♣ Q 9 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 9 2
♥ A 9 8 5 4 3
♦ A K
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
4NT Pass 5♥ Pass
5NT Pass 7♣ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.
When this hand was played in a team match, a grand slam in spades was bid at both tables. Both declarers found spectacular lines to bring in all the tricks.

Once South, who was known to hold poor trumps, could look for a grand slam by bidding five no trump. North realized the South had to have sufficient outside controls to make it a viable proposition. The grand slam was then rejected via the most direct route.

The other declarer did even better, unsetting an approach that would make even if trumps were 4-1, as long as diamonds were 3-2. After winning the king of clubs, declarer cashed the king of diamonds, then crossed to the ace of trumps and discarded the ace of diamonds on the ace of clubs.

A diamond was ruffed high and, when West showed out, declarer now had to find trumps 3-2. The ace of hearts and a heart ruff provided the entry for another diamond ruff, setting up the suit. Declarer's last spade was overtaken in dummy. Trumps were drawn and the table's diamonds took the rest of the tricks.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran convicts 3 Americans of spying

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said on Wednesday three Americans have been found guilty of spying for the United States and their case would be reviewed by Iran's supreme court. Iranian Television quoted the head of Iran's supreme court, Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, as telling reporters in Tehran that the three unnamed Americans had "been found guilty by an Islamic revolution court, and their cases were now under review by the supreme court." Mr. Gilani described the three Americans as "mercenary agents who spied for America and its accomplices during the (1980-88 Iran-Iraq) war." Mr. Gilani did not say when the Americans were arrested or give any information on them. It was the first reported news on the three.

20% of ex-Soviet emigres to Israel not Jewish

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One in five immigrants to Israel from the former Soviet Union is not a Jew, the Jewish Agency announced Wednesday. The agency said 19.8 per cent or 110,283 of the 557,370 immigrants who have flooded in since 1989 were not Jewish. Israel's "law of return" allows any Jew to immigrate and grants immediate citizenship and a range of benefits. It also applies to spouses and third generation descendants of Jewish mothers, which explains the figures for non-Jews. Avraham Burg, chairman of the agency, which oversees immigration, told reporters the policy would not change and Israel would continue to take in non-Jews.

Egypt to hold elections in Halalib

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has taken the first step towards holding elections in a border region disputed with Sudan, which is likely to increase tensions between the two neighbours. On Tuesday, Egypt's consultative Shura Council approved a bill creating election districts in Halalib, a triangular patch of desert on the Red Sea. The National Assembly, or parliament, is expected to follow suit shortly. The move is in response to Sudan's announcement in February that it would hold elections in Halalib. Under an 1899 treaty, the land was incorporated into Egypt, which later gave Sudan administrative powers there. In 1991, Sudan tried to lease Red Sea oil rights off Halalib to a Canadian firm, triggering the present dispute in which both countries claim the land.

Talibans block fuel supplies into Kabul

KABUL (AP) — The Taliban militia, a leading opposition group in the civil war, has imposed a blockade on fuel coming into the capital in a bid to weaken the nominal government. Gasoline prices have doubled to the equivalent of \$3.50 a gallon since the blockade began Monday, but it is unlikely to undermine President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government. "We have cut supplies of gasoline and diesel, but we are not stopping anything else such as flour," Taliban commander Haji Ubaidullah told the Associated Press in an interview in Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres southwest of Kabul. "The government is using the fuel to run their tanks and military hardware in their fight against us," Mr. Ubaidullah said in explaining the motive for the blockade. Mr. Rabbani's troops and their allies have driven all their opponents, including the Taliban, out of rocket range of Kabul and the city has been calm for the past month.

Jewish extremists call for murder of "K"

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Hardline Israeli nationalists called Wednesday for the murder of the new head of the internal intelligence agency Shin Beth whom they consider opposed to Jewish settlement on occupied territory. Israeli military radio said it had received a statement from the "David's Shield" group calling for "the execution of the traitor who persecutes settlers." The group, which says it is linked to the outlawed Kach movement, gave the full name of the Shin Beth chief, which is banned by military censorship. He is identified only by the code letter "K." An expert on Jewish extremism, he took charge of Shin Beth in March. A Kach leader went to court to try to have the appointment overturned.

Three sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Three militants were sentenced to death on Wednesday for killing a policeman and wounding two civilians in February 1992 in south Egypt, court sources said. Six other extremists were sentenced to life of hard labour while another was acquitted by the criminal court of Esna, 750 kilometres south of Cairo. The members of the outlawed Samaa Al Islamiyah group were found guilty of murdering Mokhtar Ahmad 40, a member of state security, and injuring two civilians who tried to stop them during the attack in Esna. Badri Makhluuf Hussein, who was already in prison, was found innocent of issuing orders from his cell to the others to commit attacks against police. Hussein is serving multiple sentences amounting to 60 years in prison for participation in attacks against tourists in 1992.

EU seeks Iranian pledge on Rushdie

TEHRAN (AFP) — European Union (EU) envoys met a senior Iranian official here on Wednesday and asked Tehran for a pledge not to harm British author Salman Rushdie, diplomatic sources said. The ambassadors of France, Germany and Spain — representing the past, present and future presidents of the EU — presented Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif with a demand not to carry out the religious edict condemning Mr. Rushdie to death, the sources said. Their visit marked a new attempt by the EU to minimise the impact of the fatwa pronounced by former Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Mr. Rushdie in 1989 following publication of his book, "The Satanic Verses," judged blasphemous to Islam.

Tunisia sets up office in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Tunisian envoy presented his credentials to Yasser Arafat on Wednesday bringing to three the number of Arab countries with representatives in the Gaza Strip. Mohammad Al Munji Al Ajnafi told Mr. Arafat at his sea-side headquarters: "I will try to shoulder this responsibility until we reach the shores of peace." Tunisia joined Egypt and Morocco from the Arab World while Germany, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands also have opened offices here and in the West Bank self-rule enclave of Jericho. "Tunisia has everlasting value for us and we will remain together until we pray together in Jerusalem as capital of independent Palestine," Mr. Arafat said.

Adel Imam's play highest earner

CAIRO (AP) — He is Egypt's leading comedian and star box office attraction, and now Adel Imam's latest play "The Leader" has become the highest earner in Egyptian theatre history. The comedy opened in the fall 1983, and after playing for 318 nights, it has made nearly 20 million pounds (\$5.8 million). A quarter of that figure was paid to the government as taxes. Egypt's newspapers published pictures of the Monday night celebration by the cast of "The Leader" after the figures were announced. The play, written by Farouk Sabry, is a political satire set in a fictional Third World dictatorship. The dictator dies and Imam, his look-alike, winds up running the country and rejects the old system. As Egypt's leading comedian, Imam's movies are guaranteed box office successes and his plays usually have lengthy runs.



Iraqi trade unionists protest on Wednesday in front of the U.N. office in Baghdad a U.N. resolution to allow limited oil sales (AFP photo)

Iraq protesters reject U.N. plan

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Brandishing anti-U.S. banners, thousands of Iraqi demonstrators crowded Baghdad streets on Wednesday to voice their rejection of a U.N. plan allowing Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil.

About 10,000 people took to the streets in a demonstration reminiscent of anti-U.S. protests in the build-up to the 1991 Gulf war, when a U.S.-led allied force drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

"This resolution is American, the Iraqi people do not accept it," read a banner hoisted by a group of Iraqi workers.

It was the largest demonstration so far against the U.N. resolution, already rejected by the Iraqi cabinet since it was passed by the Security Council last Friday.

The U.N. plan would allow Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion of oil over 180 days, renewable for another six months, to raise funds to pay for urgently needed foodstuffs and medicines.

U.N. sanctions applied to

Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait have devastated its economy, but Baghdad says the terms of the resolution infringe on its sovereignty.

Fadhil Ghareeb, head of Iraqi trade unions, led the demonstrators.

"As trade unions, we cannot accept this resolution and have written to the government about it," Mr. Ghareeb told Reuters.

"It (resolution) will not operate a single factory, not employ a single worker and not lesson inflation," he said. "It is like slow death. Therefore we cannot accept it," Mr. Ghareeb said, adding that Iraqi trade unions will confront the plan "with all possible means."

The ruling Baath Party newspaper on Wednesday dismissed the resolution as "mean and vicious" and said Iraq would settle for nothing short of a total lifting of the ban on its oil exports.

"Our rejection of this conspiratorial, vicious American resolution stems from the fact that the Iraqi people shall not

allow foreigners to make use of its national wealth until doomsday," the paper said in a front-page editorial.

Iraq's cabinet at the weekend flatly spurned the U.N. plan and Baghdad newspapers carried an address by President Saddam Hussein in which he said Iraq's enemies were "astonished with the Iraqi people's attitude rejecting the American resolution."

The Baath Party paper said the only way out of the impasse was for the U.N. to acknowledge that Iraq has complied with Gulf war ceasefire terms requiring it to dismantle its weapons systems and to lift sanctions entirely.

Babel Newspaper said the resolution was a conspiracy which Iraq flatly rejects. Iraq preferred further "tightening of belts" to accepting such a resolution, it said.

Iraqi parliamentary committees are discussing the resolution pending a formal session Iraqi legislators are to hold soon.

In Abu Dhabi, Organisation of Palestine Exporting Countries Secretary-General Riward Lukman said Iraq's return to the oil market if U.N. sanctions are eased would not weaken prices.

Mr. Lukman, on his arrival in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a Gulf tour, said, however, that OPEC oil ministers would hold emergency talks if the United Nations allowed Iraq back to the market.

"I do not know what the result of the U.N. resolution will be but I think that Iraq's resumption of oil exports according to OPEC rules will not affect oil prices," Mr. Lukman told Reuters.

"After the sanctions are lifted, OPEC will hold an emergency meeting to discuss Iraq's comeback to the market."

"We hope such a return will be compatible with the organisation's rules and policies on production quotas assigned to each member state so the market will not be destabilised," he said.

Rafsanjani: No plan to build A-bombs

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Wednesday Tehran had no plans to build atomic weapons and accused the United States of trying to block its peaceful nuclear energy projects.

Mr. Rafsanjani told a news conference in the Indian capital he expected Russia to provide four nuclear reactors valued at between \$800 million and \$1 billion to Iran despite U.S. objections.

"So far we have no plans to build atomic weapons," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "We do believe that the application of this type of weapon will have a devastating effect on humanity," Mr. Rafsanjani said. "I believe what the Americans have done by bombing Hiroshima, they can never get rid of the shame."

Asked if Russia would deliver the four reactors despite U.S. pressure, Mr. Rafsanjani said: "I find it difficult that the Russians will accept such slander and insult from the Americans as they play with the dignity of a great nation."

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking on the last day of a three-day state visit, said his views on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) were at odds with New Delhi which says the pact, up for review, discriminates against non-nuclear states.

"We do agree with the extension of the NPT," he said. "But there are conditions and words that need to be expressed. You shall be hearing our position in this regard."

Mr. Rafsanjani jokingly dismissed a remark by a senior U.S. official who said he would have postponed a visit to India if he had known that it coincided with a trip by the Iranian head of state.

"I think it is quite ugly for the United States not to know of my visit to this country since it was known for many months," Mr. Rafsanjani said when asked about the comment by U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

"If the rest of the intelligence (the Americans) are receiving is like this than they have a difficult task on their hands," he joked.

Mr. Rubin, who arrived in New Delhi on Monday, the same day as Mr. Rafsanjani, told reporters here Tuesday he would have postponed his trip if he had known ahead of time that the Iranian president would be here.

Mr. Rafsanjani said his country would consider strengthening strained relations with the United States if Washington first released billions of dollars of frozen assets.

"We do not have any trust in the United States," Mr. Rafsanjani told the news conference. "We believe that they should first prove they do not have any misintentions in their behaviour so that we could have further consideration for our future reference."

Mr. Rafsanjani said: "We feel one such indication of goodwill from the United States could be the release of our frozen assets of our country. That would be a good sign."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Reuters that Mr. Rafsanjani was

referring to \$17 billion Iran says Washington froze after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Mr. Rafsanjani also offered to mediate in a dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, but said the United States must not be allowed to get involved.

The Iranian leader, speaking warmly of India's secular tradition, said the issue of Kashmir and a Hindu-Muslim dispute over the demolition of a mosque should not be used for propaganda against New Delhi.

"I am not satisfied nor happy with the situation in Kashmir," Mr. Rafsanjani told a news conference.

"We have announced our readiness for mediation with India and Pakistan and the people of Kashmir," he said. "But we are also aware of reports of American involvement in the dispute which must not be allowed."

Mr. Rafsanjani spoke as U.S. Ambassador to India Frank Wisner prepared to visit Kashmir next month, the highest ranking U.S. official to set foot in the Himalayan region in five years.

Hamas rejects Arafat order to disarm

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The militant Hamas group, which has tried to halt Israel-Palestinian peacekeeping with a series of suicide bombings, said Wednesday they would not surrender weapons or stop attacks against Israel.

Izzedine Al Qassam, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, issued the leaflet after reports that a deal was being worked out between Hamas and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to end the attacks.

Officials in Mr. Arafat's self-rule government met several times over the past few days with Hamas leaders to head off a confrontation and work out an understanding.

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Irdeineh said Wednesday that some progress was being made.

"There are positive signs, and they are talking in a different language these days," Mr. Irdeineh said. "We are encouraging them, and we are waiting for them to join us and to respect the signature of the PLO (on the peace accord)."

Mr. Abu Irdeineh said that as a first step, Mr. Arafat wanted a pledge from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad that they do not carry out attacks against Israelis from PLO-ruled territory.

However, the Izzedine Al Qassam leaflet ruled out compromise.

"Our decision is to reject the disarming of our fighters," said the leaflet circulated in Gaza.

"The holy war will continue in every part of our occupied Palestinian land where (Israeli) soldiers and settlers are present, whether in Gaza, the West Bank or in the occupied lands of 1948," the statement said.

Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas political leader, said the two sides were not close to an agreement.

"The Palestinian Authority is trying to give the impression that a deal is being made to show the Israelis that they have done something," Dr. Zahar told the Associated Press.

Dr. Zahar said Egypt was trying to mediate between the militants and Arafat. He said he and other Hamas leaders met Tuesday night with the Egyptian representative to Gaza, Mohammad Karim.

Mr. Arafat last week set a May 11 deadline for militant groups to surrender their weapons.

The ultimatum was part of a crackdown carried out after back-to-back suicide bombings on April 9. Seven Israelis and an American were killed in the explosions near two Jewish settlements in Gaza.

The attacks resulted in fresh Israeli and U.S. pressure on Mr. Arafat to rein in the militants. Israeli has warned it would not pull troops out of West Bank towns, as stipulated in the peace accord, unless Mr. Arafat did a better job foiling attacks on Israelis.

Japan's Princess Sayako turns 26

TOKYO (AP) — Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, turned 26 Tuesday.

And, though rumours may abound, she says she is in no hurry to get married. Princess Sayako is the youngest of the imperial couple's three children, and the only one still single. Over the past few years, rumours have had her on the verge of marrying several times. "I would prefer to take it at my own pace," she said in a written response to questions posed by the media. Unlike her brothers — Imperial heir Naruhito and Prince Akihi-no, who is second in line to the throne — Princess Sayako cannot assume the throne. If she marries, she also will lose her status as an imperial princess, and must relinquish her annual stipend and residence with her parents at the imperial palace.

Winnie Mandela enters hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Winnie Mandela was admitted to a private clinic here suffering from stress Tuesday, a day after resigning her South African government post, public SABC television said.

The Linkfield Park Clinic confirmed Mrs. Mandela had been admitted but refused to comment on her condition, saying it had to protect the privacy of its patients. Friends and family members of the estranged wife of President Nelson Mandela pleaded with journalists waiting at the hospital to leave her alone as she needed rest.

The SABC report said tests were being conducted on Mrs. Mandela but gave no details. Mrs. Mandela Monday resigned from her position as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology, just hours before her official axing from the post was due to come into effect. Reading a press statement at her home in Johannesburg's main black township Soweto, Mrs. Mandela sounded hoarse and looked ill, but aides said she was suffering from flu.

Italy's bleeding Madonna freed from custody

CIVITA VECCHIA, Italy (R) — Judicial authorities said they had lifted a "custody order" on a statue of the Madonna whose reported tears of blood have caused thousands of Italy's faithful to flock to this port city.

Magistrate Antonio Albano lifted an injunction ordering the local bishop, Girolamo Grillo, to keep the statue locked in a sealed closet in his home pending the results of an investigation into the "whether the bleeding was a hoax. Mr. Albano did not say why he had revoked the order. Earlier he had allowed the statue to remain the subject of veneration while the scientific verdict was still pending risked violating laws forbidding "abuse of public sanctities. Since the 40-cm (15-inch) high statue of the Virgin Mary first reportedly wept tears of blood in February, thousands of people have flocked to Civitavecchia hoping to witness a miracle. Initial tests have shown that the red liquid on the face of the statue, which was purchased at the religious shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia, was male blood. But so far there has been no conclusive evidence of how it got there.

N. Zealand police hunt man who threw baby from car

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Police searched Wednesday for a man alleged to have thrown his baby daughter from a moving car, killing her. Police quoted witnesses as saying the five-month-old girl was thrown from the car Wednesday afternoon, near the North Island town of Wairoa. The child died on impact. They had no idea of a motive for the incident. "When we apprehend the guy we're looking for, we'll ask him," said Five people, including the baby's mother and two other infants, were in the car when the infant was thrown out.

Lloyd's observation at Aqaba proceeds smoothly

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Aqaba-based independent observers have not spotted any Jordanian violation of the trade sanctions against Iraq since they took up post in August, and the observation arrangement at the Red Sea port is firmly in place, senior officials of the Lloyd's Register of shipping said Wednesday.

A.J. Sanders and A. Whitehead, director and manager respectively of the London-based organisation, also said the U.N. Sanctions Committee had expressed high satisfaction with the observation procedures at Aqaba.

Lloyd's Register, a non-profit organisation, sent an eight-member observer team to Aqaba in August to replace offshore inspection with a land-based regime to monitor Jordan's adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq.

The offshore inspection was carried out by a multi-

national force led by American warships carrying inspectors who used to check all Aqaba-bound shipping. The end to the inspections came after intense Jordanian efforts prompted by substantial losses that Jordanian importers suffered as a result of the costly and time-consuming process.

The inspections were also seen as an affront to Jordan since they were conducted despite the Kingdom's repeated reaffirmation of its respect for all United Nations decisions and resolutions.

Mr. Whitehead, one of the key Lloyd's people involved in the behind-the-scenes efforts that led to the land-based regime setting up base at the port, said: "Since the Lloyd's Register team took position, we have not spotted a single violation of the sanctions at Aqaba."

"We have established an excellent working relationship with everyone concerned," Mr. Whitehead told the Jordan Times on

the fringes of a Lloyd's Register seminar in Amman.

"Everyone, particularly the Ports Corporation, the customs people and shipping agents, are extending full cooperation, and we have not encountered any problems," he added.

Mr. Sanders said Lloyd's Register had reported twice to the U.N. Sanctions Committee on its activities at the port. "The sanctions committee chairman and members were very happy with our performance," said Mr. Sanders.

All the eight members of the observation mission at Aqaba are Lloyd's Register International staff in line with the organisation's determination to prove its "independence, impartiality and integrity — the three I's," Mr. Whitehead said.

"What we are doing at Aqaba is a clear application of these principles to the satisfaction of all people concerned," he said.

"We are not policemen trying to impose anything

on anybody," he added. "We are here under an explicit agreement among all the parties concerned, and we will remain there until the concerned parties ask us to leave."

Another sign of the three "I's" that Lloyd's Register abides by is evident in the payment arrangement for its services, Mr. Whitehead said, noting that the organisation does not get paid directly from Jordan.

The Ports Corporation collects a token fee based on tonnage and volume of the cargo coming to Aqaba and remits it to a special U.N. account. Lloyd's Register prepares its own invoices and sends it to the U.N. General Secretariat, which makes the payment from the special account.

"This is aimed at ensuring the transparency of the whole arrangement and to make it clear that there is no money passing directly from Jordan to Lloyd's Register," Mr. Whitehead added.

Mr. Sanders estimated the total cost of Lloyd's

Register services at Aqaba at around \$2 million per year. That compares with the tens of millions of dollars that Jordanian importers had to pay in extra freight cost and for delayed/rerouted shipments.

Lloyd's Register surveys at Aqaba take part in the routine customs inspection procedures that govern all cargo coming to and leaving Jordan and ensures that the goods correspond with the accompanying documents.

Since customs inspections are mandatory in Jordan for all incoming and outgoing cargo, the Lloyd's Register observation has no bearing on the sovereignty of the Kingdom.

The surveyors are not authorised to stop any cargo coming to Jordan or any Jordanian consignment leaving the port since the Kingdom is not under any embargo; they could only make note of any possible

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